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FREE GIFTWRAP
FROM BESPOKE LETTERPRESS

DING DONG!
Festive front door
STYLE IDEAS

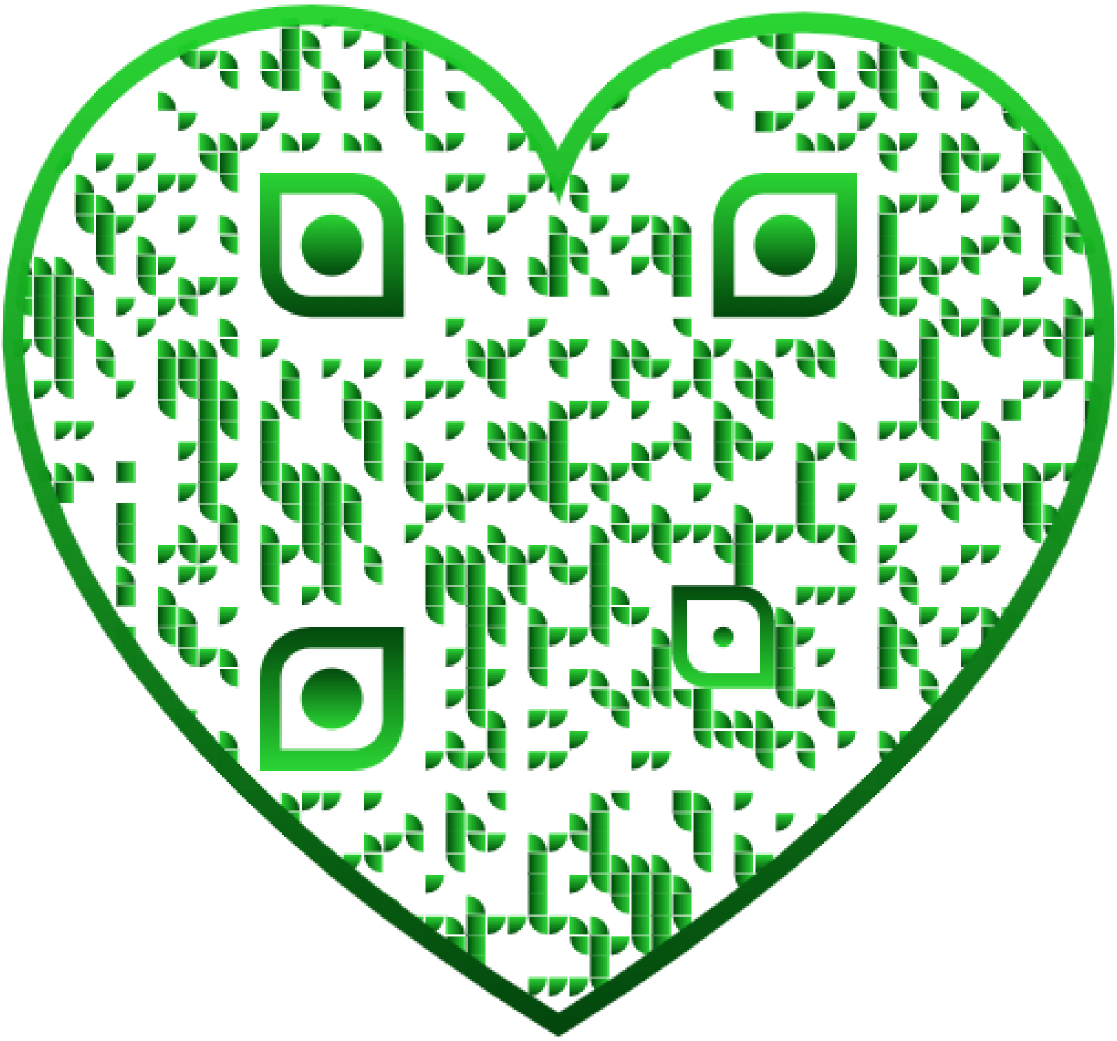
SEASON *of* JOY

HAM OR TURKEY?
A CLASSIC MENU *with* A TWIST

ALL
FIRED UP
OUTDOOR
pizza ovens

EASY
BREEZY
Decorating
FOR THE HOLIDAYS

50 PAGES *of* CHRISTMAS HOMES
TIMELESS LIGHTING *looks for* EVERY ROOM



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HOME LIVING®

I remember my first retail job, I was 13 years old and working as a Christmas casual in the toy department of the Wangaratta Co-op. Completely unbeknown to me at the time, where that little toyshop lay, would become the birthplace of Provincial Home Living. My family purchased the Co-op and restored it to its former glory, reopening the store in 2002 as the first Provincial Home Living.

Our vision was to create a brand of timeless furniture and homewares, pieces that are designed to be passed down through generations. Beautiful but not precious, they are intended to be used and enjoyed daily by the whole family. Inspiration for our range is taken from provincial destinations around the world, focusing on enduring classics, traditional craftsmanship, and understated elegance.

We have curated an inspiring collection of furniture and homewares to transform your home into an escape from the everyday hustle and bustle. A place where time slips by, where you and your loved ones can relax in the warmth of your surroundings. We believe your home can be a place that evokes pride and passion, as well as a place that invites relaxation and harmony.

From the beginning, Provincial Home Living has always been about family and now, over 20 years later and with 37 stores located across Australia, Provincial is still proudly family owned and run.

jade x

Creative Director - Provincial Home Living

37 stores located around Australia.
Shop online at provincialhomeliving.com.au

DECEMBER
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home beautiful

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IT'S A WRAP
The gorgeous 'Christmas Plaid/Mr & Mrs Claus' gift wrap by Maja Lindberg is available at Bespoke Letterpress. It's so pretty we couldn't resist printing it here.

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ELLE'S PATTERN OF THE MONTH
'The Snowy Village' by Bespoke Letterpress, you'll be thrilled to hear, is one of two prints that appear on our free gift wrap this issue. It's a nod to tradition and comes in matching gift bags and cards, too. Happy wrapping!

EDITOR'S LETTER

It's official. We can talk about Christmas! I'll let you in on a secret: here at *Home Beautiful*, we've been working on our Christmas content since August. And I've loved every minute. It's such a magical time of year, and for many of us, it starts in November, which is why we've kicked off the festive season with this 'Countdown to Christmas' issue. (Another secret I'll share is that next month, we have a second fabulous issue packed with festive content!) Whether you'll be hosting or guesting this year, we have plenty of advice and inspiration on the following pages.

Start with our shopping story on page 59, where we set up a gorgeous poolside lunch decked out with foil-wrapped Haigh's Chocolates in a palette of green and white. I think this sophisticated scheme would work as well in a country or urban setting as it does in this chic coastal home. Perhaps it will inspire your festive style?

From page 161, we get to the main event: the Christmas menu. Every year, I can't decide between ham or turkey, so I say go for both. With all the trimmings. The recipes in this feature are absolutely delicious, seriously easy to make and pair beautifully with a variety of local wines. My recommendation? The Sparkling Cuvée from Handpicked, which we served at our Lunch on the Lawn event (page 22).

If you're curious to see how other people decorate and celebrate, flip to page 81, where we are welcomed into the homes of Alyce Tran, Kate Waterhouse and Rhys and Kirsten Stanley. From a renovated inner-city terrace to a new build farmhouse in regional Victoria, each home is decorated in a style that suits its inhabitants and their traditions. That's what I love – the way we each make Christmas our own.

Elle Lovelock

ELLE LOVELOCK, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Get in touch with me on Instagram @ellelovelock

COVER LOOK

ADDING A FESTIVE FLOURISH TO THE FRONT DOOR IS ONE OF THE SIMPLEST AND MOST EFFECTIVE WAYS TO STYLE FOR CHRISTMAS. OUR COVER LOOK SPORTS A GORGEOUS 'RED BERRY WREATH' FROM ALFRESCO EMPORIUM, UPON A PANELLED DOOR PAINTED IN WATTYL PAPER WHITE. PHOTOGRAPHY: ***Lauren Trompp***

PHOTOGRAPHY (PORTRAIT) PHILLIP CASTLETON

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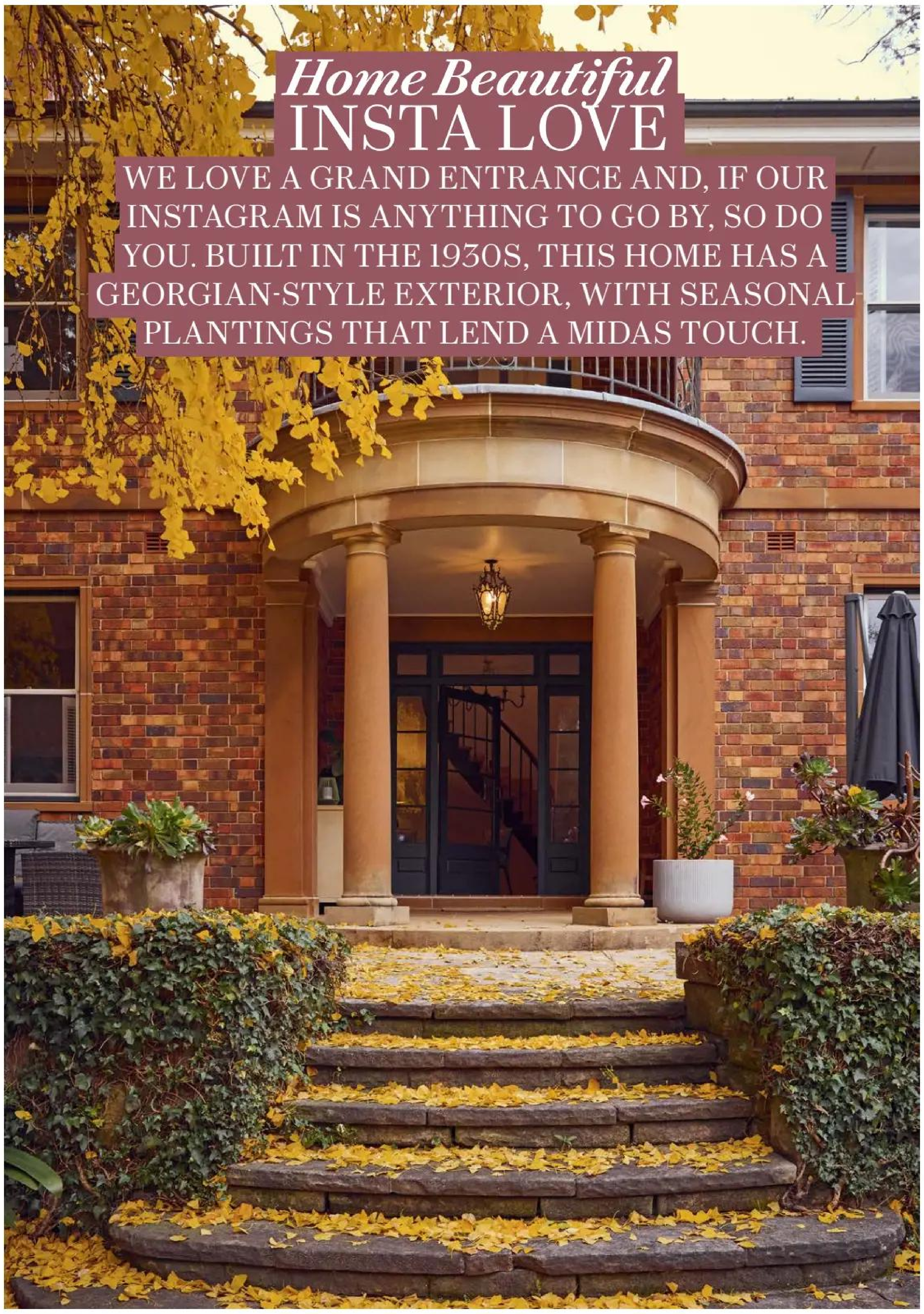


Home Beautiful INSTA LOVE

WE LOVE A GRAND ENTRANCE AND, IF OUR INSTAGRAM IS ANYTHING TO GO BY, SO DO YOU. BUILT IN THE 1930S, THIS HOME HAS A GEORGIAN-STYLE EXTERIOR, WITH SEASONAL PLANTINGS THAT LEND A MIDAS TOUCH.

WASTE NOT, *want not*

We're so lucky at Home Beautiful to have a team that's filled with people with a range of skills and talents. Diana Moore, our digital editor (pictured, above), is one such example. At our Lunch on the Lawn springtime event (see page 22), she put her floristry experience to good use. When the frivolities were coming to a close, she collected the flowers and greenery from their vases, wrapping them into stunning bouquets for each guest to take home. It was a wonderful parting gift and also gave the botanical delights a second life.

CLICK THROUGH

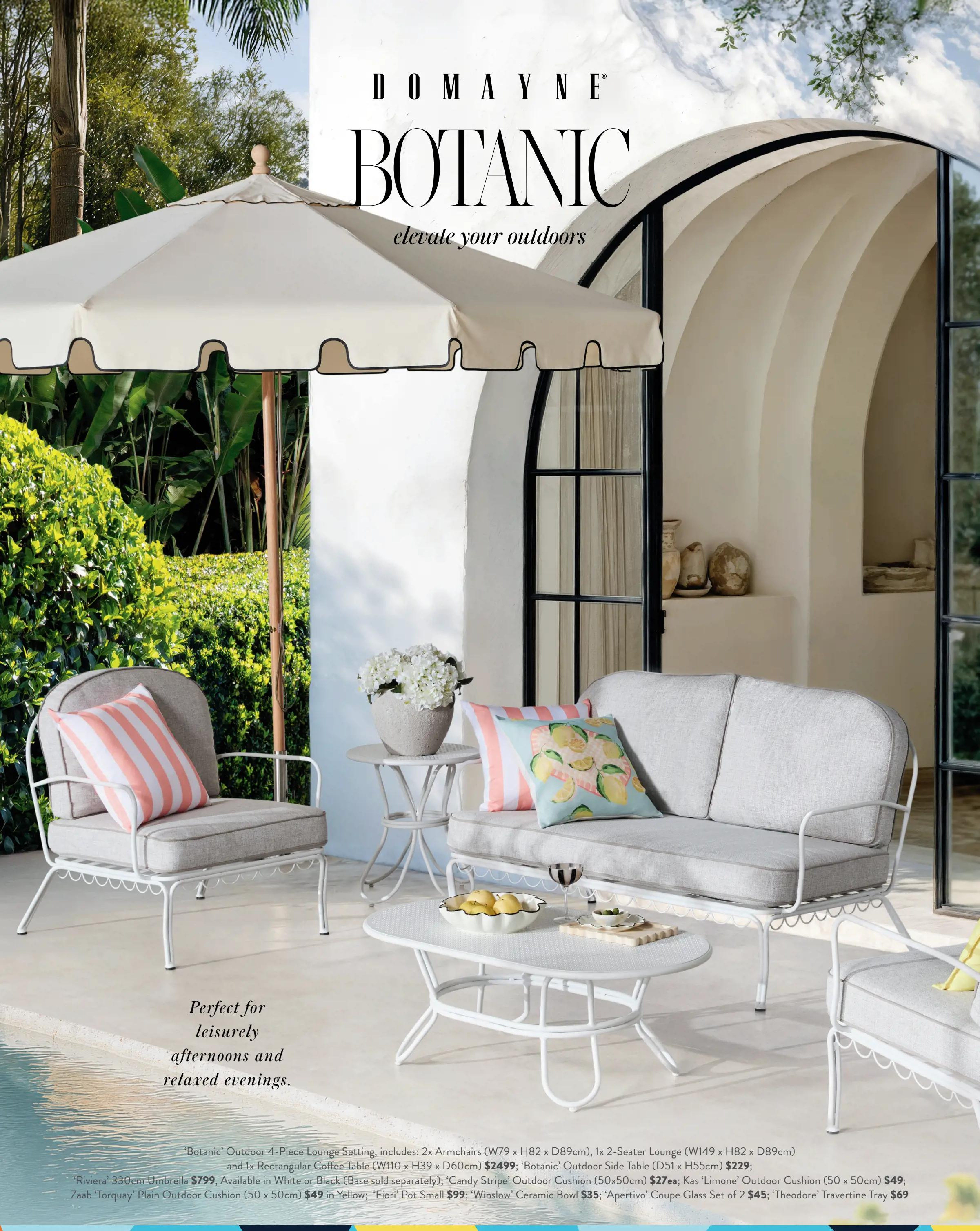
THE STORIES YOU'VE LOVED ON WWW.HOMEBEAUTIFUL.COM.AU

Beauty icon Eleanor Pendleton puts her charming Terrigal house on the market

The Block alumni Leah and Ash sell their renovated Queenslander for $3 million

We reveal where the 2026 season of The Block will be filmed (and it's a fresh sea change)

PHOTOGRAPHY (TOP LEFT) **ALANA LANDSBERRY** (TOP RIGHT) **PAUL SUESSE** (BOTTOM LEFT & MIDDLE) **REALESTATE.COM.AU** (BOTTOM RIGHT) **CHANNEL 9 & REALESTATE.COM.AU** STYLING (TOP LEFT) **NONCI NYONI** BACKGROUND **FERMOIE 'FLAG' WALLPAPER IN RED, ELLIOTT CLARKE TEXTILES**



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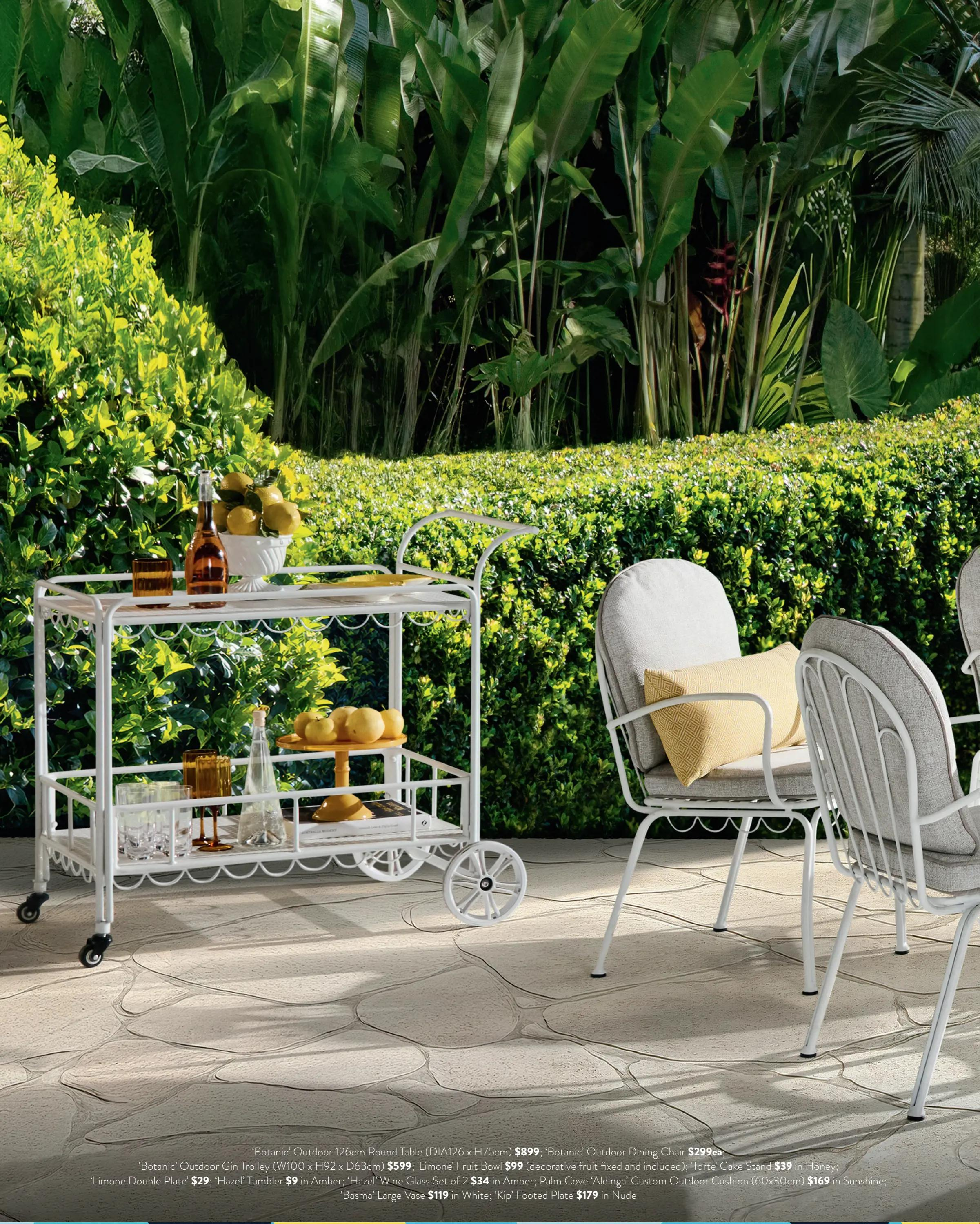
BOTANIC

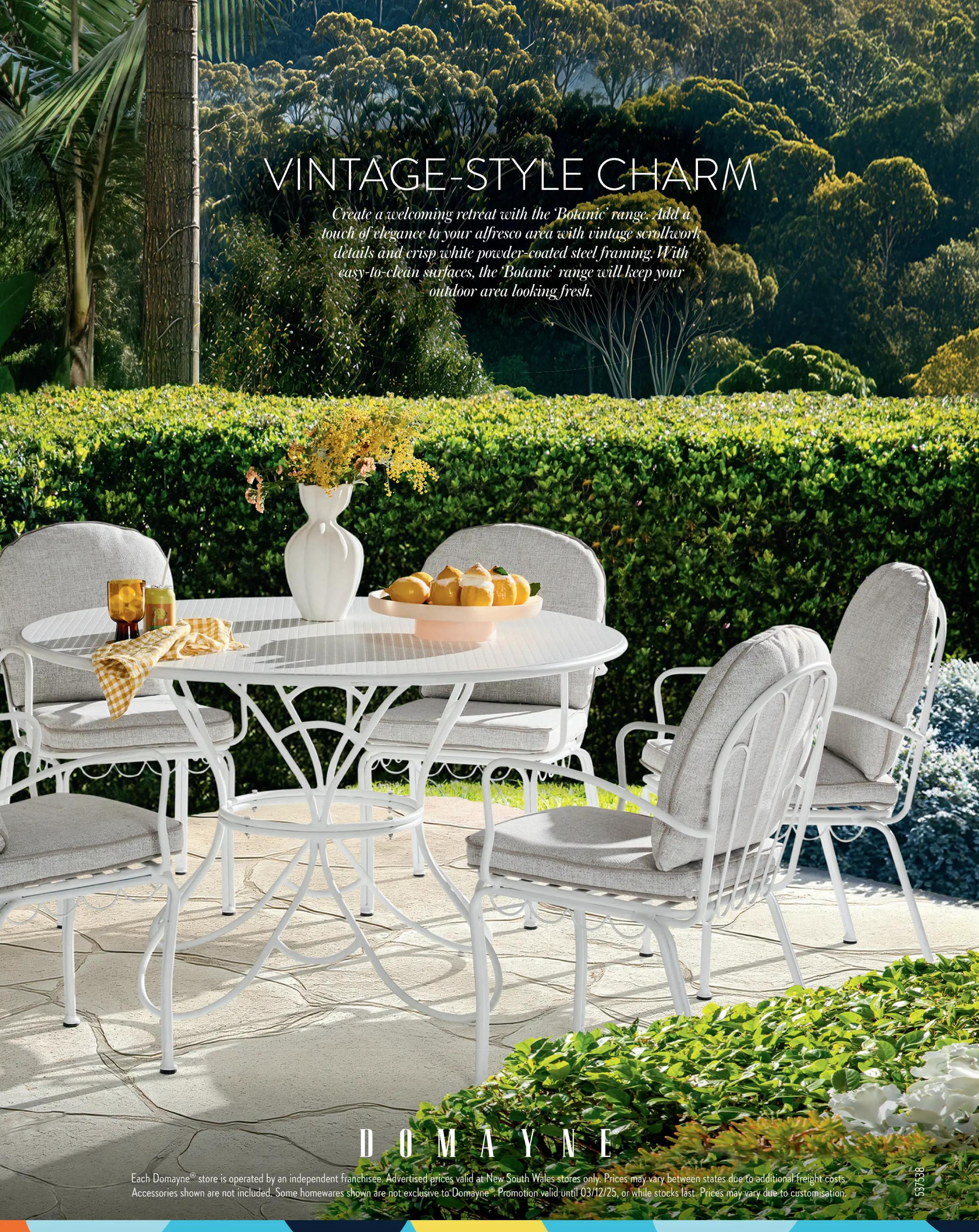
elevate your outdoors

Perfect for leisurely afternoons and relaxed evenings.

'Botanic' Outdoor 4-Piece Lounge Setting, includes: 2x Armchairs (W79 x H82 x D89cm), 1x 2-Seater Lounge (W149 x H82 x D89cm) and 1x Rectangular Coffee Table (W110 x H39 x D60cm) **$2499**; 'Botanic' Outdoor Side Table (D51 x H55cm) **$229**; 'Riviera' 330cm Umbrella **$799**, Available in White or Black (Base sold separately); 'Candy Stripe' Outdoor Cushion (50x50cm) **$27ea**; Kas 'Limone' Outdoor Cushion (50 x 50cm) **$49**; Zaab 'Torquay' Plain Outdoor Cushion (50 x 50cm) **$49** in Yellow; 'Fiori' Pot Small **$99**; 'Winslow' Ceramic Bowl **$35**; 'Apertivo' Coupe Glass Set of 2 **$45**; 'Theodore' Travertine Tray **$69**



‘Botanic’ Outdoor 126cm Round Table (DIA126 x H75cm) **$899**; ‘Botanic’ Outdoor Dining Chair **$299ea**;
‘Botanic’ Outdoor Gin Trolley (W100 x H92 x D63cm) **$599**; 'Limone' Fruit Bowl **$99** (decorative fruit fixed and included); 'Torte' Cake Stand **$39** in Honey;
‘Limone Double Plate’ **$29**; ‘Hazel’ Tumbler **$9** in Amber; ‘Hazel’ Wine Glass Set of 2 **$34** in Amber; Palm Cove ‘Aldinga’ Custom Outdoor Cushion (60x30cm) **$169** in Sunshine;
‘Basma’ Large Vase **$119** in White; ‘Kip’ Footed Plate **$179** in Nude



VINTAGE-STYLE CHARM

Create a welcoming retreat with the 'Botanic' range. Add a touch of elegance to your alfresco area with vintage scrollwork details and crisp white powder-coated steel framing. With easy-to-clean surfaces, the 'Botanic' range will keep your outdoor area looking fresh.

DOMAYNE®

Each Domayne® store is operated by an independent franchisee. Advertised prices valid at New South Wales stores only. Prices may vary between states due to additional freight costs. Accessories shown are not included. Some homewares shown are not exclusive to Domayne®. Promotion valid until 03/12/25, or while stocks last. Prices may vary due to customisation.

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THE TOWNHOUSE
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West Leederville WA

Talia Linear Chandelier
by JULIE NEILL

Arabelle Hanging Shade
by AERIN

INTERIORS by Mata Design
PHOTO by Ross Wallace

BEAUTIFUL STYLE

SHOP | DISCOVER | DECORATE | STYLE | EXPLORE

HOLIDAY FLAME

Bring the scent of summer to your festive table with Hunter Candles' 'The Pav' 2025 Christmas candle (pictured centre), $64. Hand-poured in Sydney, it smells of sweet meringue, passionfruit curd, lemon zest and cream, and burns for more than 50 hours. Find it at huntercandles.com.au.

THE EDIT
PAGE 18 →

PHOTOGRAPHY **DECLAN BLACKHALL** STYLING **DEBORAH & VIANNEY HUNTER**

STYLE NEWS

THE EDIT

The latest decor drops and noteworthy design finds

EDITED BY **ALICE IERACE, REBECCA HOOTON & BRITTANY SMITH**

NATURAL BEAUTY

MAISON BALZAC AND TANORA TEAM UP FOR THE PALAMÓS COLLECTION (SHOWN LEFT), FEATURING A CARAFE, $129, AND GOBLETS, $119/SET OF 2. THE PIECES BLEND THE BRANDS' SIGNATURE GLASSWARE AND HANDWOVEN RAFFIA. HEAD TO MAISONBALZAC.COM OR TANORA.COM.AU.

BLOWN AWAY

Glassblower Leisa Wharington crafts all things glass, from statement chandeliers to delicate keepsakes, including Christmas baubles (above), $75 each. Head to leisawharington.com.au to find them all.

CALLINGTON MILL FESTIVE CASK
CALLINGTON MILL CHRISTMAS PUDDING

DRAM GOOD

For a spirited gift set, try the Callington Mill Distillery Festive Cask Single Malt Whisky with Christmas Pudding, $165, callingtonmilldistillery.com

Art attack

The Affordable Art Fair returns to Sydney in a new larger location this year, Carriageworks, from 6–9 November 2025. Visit the wine bar or children's art studio (or both!) then browse and buy art for every budget. Tickets for the four-day event are available at affordableartfair.com/fairs/sydney.

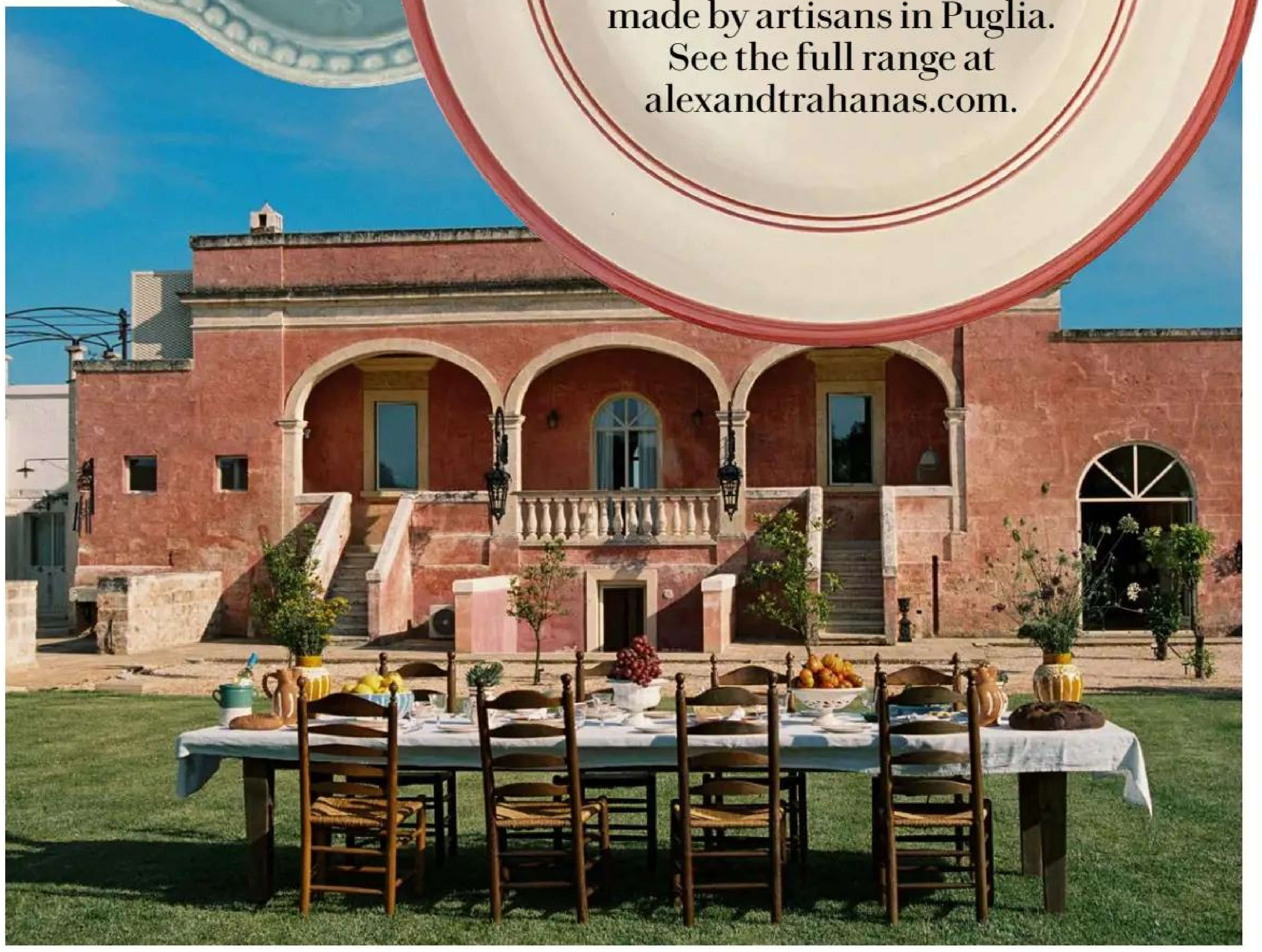
Bold move

STUDIO ALM BRINGS FRESH ENERGY TO THE ICONIC MAKER&SON 'SONG' ARMCHAIR, REIMAGINING ITS TIMELESS FORM IN SEVEN GRAPHIC FABRICS, INCLUDING 'MAYEN' (SHOWN). THE COLLAB CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT ISTDIBS OR AT THE SYDNEY MAKER&SON SHOWROOM. FOR MORE DETAILS, HEAD TO MAKERANDSON.COM.AU.

***From left** Alex and Trahanas Benvenuti 'Partemio Ponti' **cake stand**, $260, and **main plate** in Chocolate, $95.*

TABLE *CRUSH*

Add Italian flair with Alex and Trahanas' Benvenuti collection, a new release of hand-painted ceramics made by artisans in Puglia. See the full range at alexandtrahanas.com.



YOU'RE SURROUNDED

Experience cinema-level sound at home with the Sonos Arc Ultra (below), $1799, which has breakthrough Sound Motion technology that integrates seamlessly and brings immersive sound to every room. Learn more at sonos.com/en-au.

PHOTOGRAPHY (LEISA WHARINGTON) **MARK LOBO** (MAISON BALZAC X TANORA) **STEPHANIE STAMATIS** (CALLINGTON MILL) **SAMMY JONES PHOTOGRAPHY** (STUDIO ALM X MAKER&SON) **JONNY VALIANT** (ALEX AND TRAHANAS) **MARCO ANDRES**

5 minutes with...
SILVIA COLLOCA

We chat to Italian-Australian cookbook author and TV host Silvia Colloca, about 'Per Silvia', her cookware collection with Essteele.

What is your favourite feature?

Silvia: "I wanted these pans to feel as good to cook with as they look. They're made with a strong, diamond-coated non-stick surface and a recycled aluminium body. You can use them on any cooktop, and I've added my signature on the base just to remind you that I'm there with you, encouraging you to cook delicious food."

What are the benefits of the diamond-coated surface?

"Diamond is one of the hardest materials in the world, so the surface is extra durable and resists scratches beautifully. It also conducts heat really well, which means your food cooks evenly."

How can people cook like an Italian?

"Start with good ingredients. And then, don't rush. Cooking in Italy is... about slowing down, tasting as you go, letting the sauce simmer until it smells irresistible. Finally, you share it. Food in Italy is never just about what's on the plate. It's the people around the table, the conversation, the laughter."

'Per Silvia' includes two skillets, one saucepan with lid and one sauteuse with lid. $699.95/ 4-piece set. Find out more at essteele.com.au.

The Edit

FROM ELLE

Editor-in-chief Elle Lovelock shares how she likes to host and entertain, for the festive season and beyond

HEAVEN SCENT

Whenever I clean the house, my four-year-old son asks 'Who's coming over?' It makes me think, do I really only deep clean when we are expecting guests? That's a worry. But we do entertain quite often, so the house is generally tidy. I was asked recently for my top tips to elevate an interior, and one of them is a fancy, aromatic multi-surface spray. I love the Tasmanian Pepper and Lavender range from Bondi Wash and the Diptyque La Droguerie multi-surface cleaner – sprayed on benchtops, they scent a room quicker than a candle *while* making things sparkling clean. Bonus tip: use them to wipe down your front door inside and out for a beautifully fragranced welcome.

WALK THIS WAY

When people arrive at your home, the most important thing to do is tell them where to go. I know that doesn't sound very polite, but hear me out. People need to be guided through and invited to sit down. Have you ever gone to someone's house, only to stand around wondering whether you should loiter in the kitchen or head through to the living room? Set the scene for your guests. A simple "Come on through to the garden and take a seat while I get you a drink" will suffice. A note on drinks: I always keep a bottle of sparkling wine and some sparkling water in my fridge for impromptu get-togethers, but if you know who you'll be hosting, try to stock up on what your guests might like. It shows you care if you can offer them their favourite beverage. If you don't know, serve your own favourite and tell them why you love it – it's a great conversation starter.

IT'S A VIBE

I love a theme. Not in the kitsch sense, but rather a palette and a feeling that I like to create when I'm hosting. For example, if it's a lunch where I'm serving pizzas, I might start with Bellinis while I pop arancini in the air fryer, play 1960s Italian pop music and scent my home with vine-tomato candles. Though the pizzas should be cheesy, the theme doesn't have to be. At Christmas, I'm a traditionalist at heart and love to decorate with red and green. I've found that by going for deeper shades of these festive colours, you can create an elegant setting. Think rich claret and forest greens. Teamed with glimmering crystal glasses, votives and ornaments, and the gleam of polished silver, the effect is truly magical. For a fresh accent, last year I made candle wreaths from glossy holly leaves. They're incredibly spiky, so I advise to wear gloves, but they look wonderful. I might do the same again this year.

***Opposite, from top** Borgo Delle Tovaglie 'Firenze' linen **placemats** in Terracotta and Sale Marino, $195/set of 4, Emporean. Villeroy & Boch 'Grand Royal' red wine **goblets**, $195/set of 2, David Jones. Florabelle Living 'Birchwood' nickel **ice bucket**, $329, Living Styles. 'Sky' stainless steel **cocktail sticks**, $90/set of 6, Georg Jensen. Tasmanian **Sparkling Cuvée**, $50/750ml, Handpicked. 'Barletta' rectangular **ottoman** in Avignon Velvet Nut, $845, Coco Republic. Clinique High Impact **mascara** in Black Honey, $50, David Jones. Ninja 'Foodi Smart XL' **grill and air fryer**, $249, Harvey Norman.*

HANDPICKED
NINJA
CLINIQUE high impact mascara mascara impact optimal

Festive finery

December is one of the few times of year that you have an excuse to dress up – and I intend to make the most of it! Even if I'm the one doing all the cooking, I love a bit of glamour, and sparkling earrings are my accessory of choice. This year, the 'Leta' earrings from Gingiberi are high on my wishlist (darling husband, I hope you are reading this!). Recently, I've discovered the Black Honey mascara from Clinique, and I think it's perfect for that festive flourish. Though, I've been wearing it every day, to be honest. It's a cherry-toned black that really makes blue, green, hazel and brown eyes pop. I promise it's not scary – I'm conservative when it comes to make-up and it's my new staple. As for what I'll be wearing on The Big Day, I haven't decided yet. And actually, it's probably more important that I don a beautiful apron! I'll be wearing it long enough. HB

PHOTOGRAPHY (PORTRAIT) **ALANA LANDSBERRY** BACKGROUND **FERMOIE 'SAVERNAKE' WALLPAPER IN 004 COLOURWAY, ELLIOTT CLARKE TEXTILES**

Welcome to
A LUNCH on the LAWN
100th Birthday Edition
home beautiful
100 YEARS
In partnership with
COCO REPUBLIC
CIRCA
1

2

home beautiful
A LUNCH on the LAWN
MENU
ENTREE
MAIN
DESSERT
WINES
HAIGH'S CHOCOLATES
MILK CHOCOLATE
In partnership with
COCO REPUBLIC
CIRCA
3

9

A DAY TO REMEMBER

Our Lunch on the Lawn event for readers at The Mint in Sydney celebrated our 100th birthday in style

PHOTOGRAPHY **PAUL SUESSE**

COCO REPUBLIC
4

__1.__ A warm welcome. __2.__ Editor-in-chief of Home Beautiful, Elle Lovelock, with Waffa Nakad and Georgia Charles, both Circa. __3.__ Guests received Haigh's Chocolates. __4.__ Jane Huxley, CEO of Are Media, with Tara Lamond and Sonia Thompson, both from Coco Republic, and Michelle O'Hanlon of Home Beautiful. __5.__ Guests were treated to Handpicked wines. __6.__ Ketryna Small and Tracey Tomkins, both loyal readers. __7.__ Alexandra Mason of Studio aem and Holly Doran. __8.__ Tablecloths by Isla Design set the scene. __9.__ Heather Prideaux, Karen Stewart and Kym Kitching-Downs.

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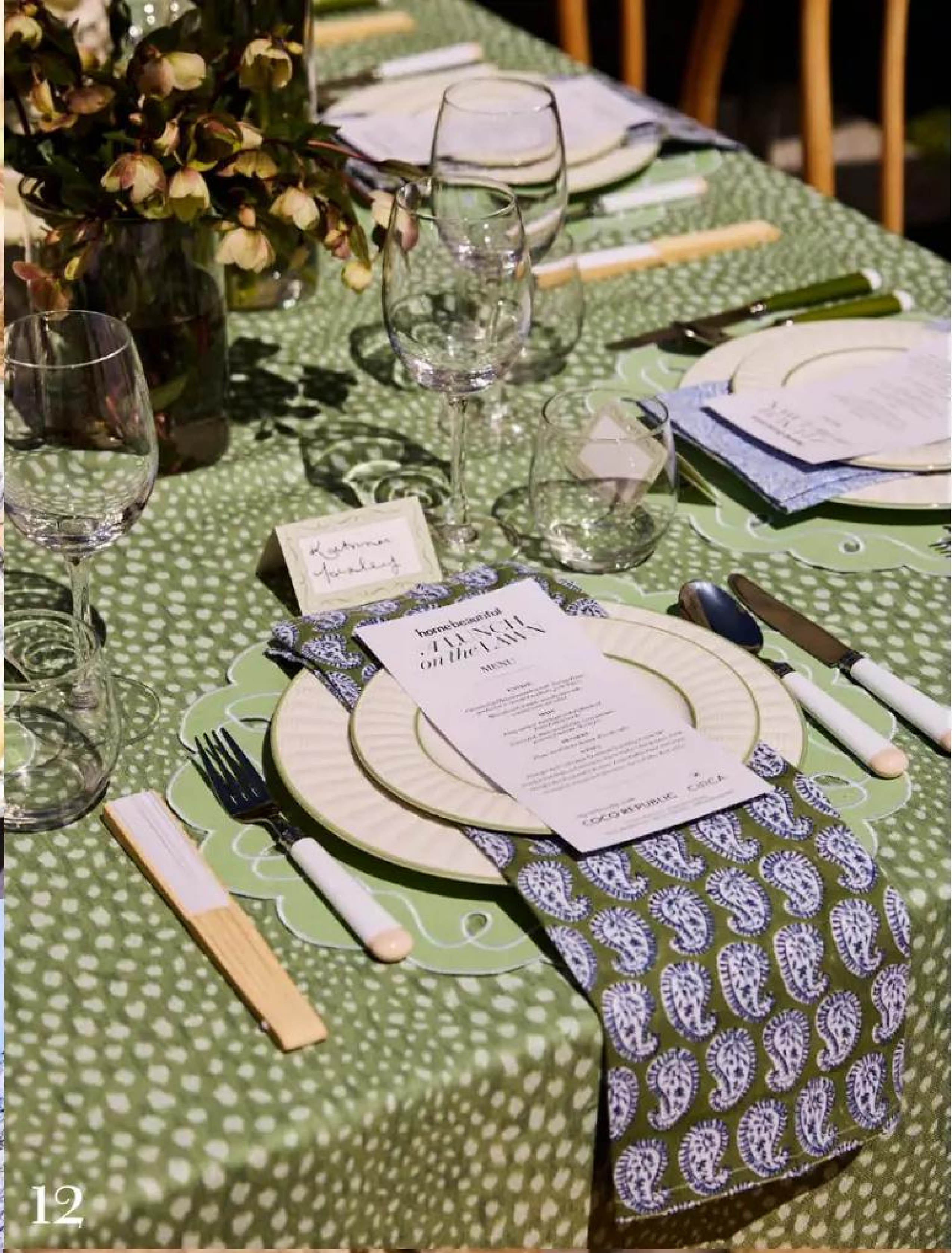
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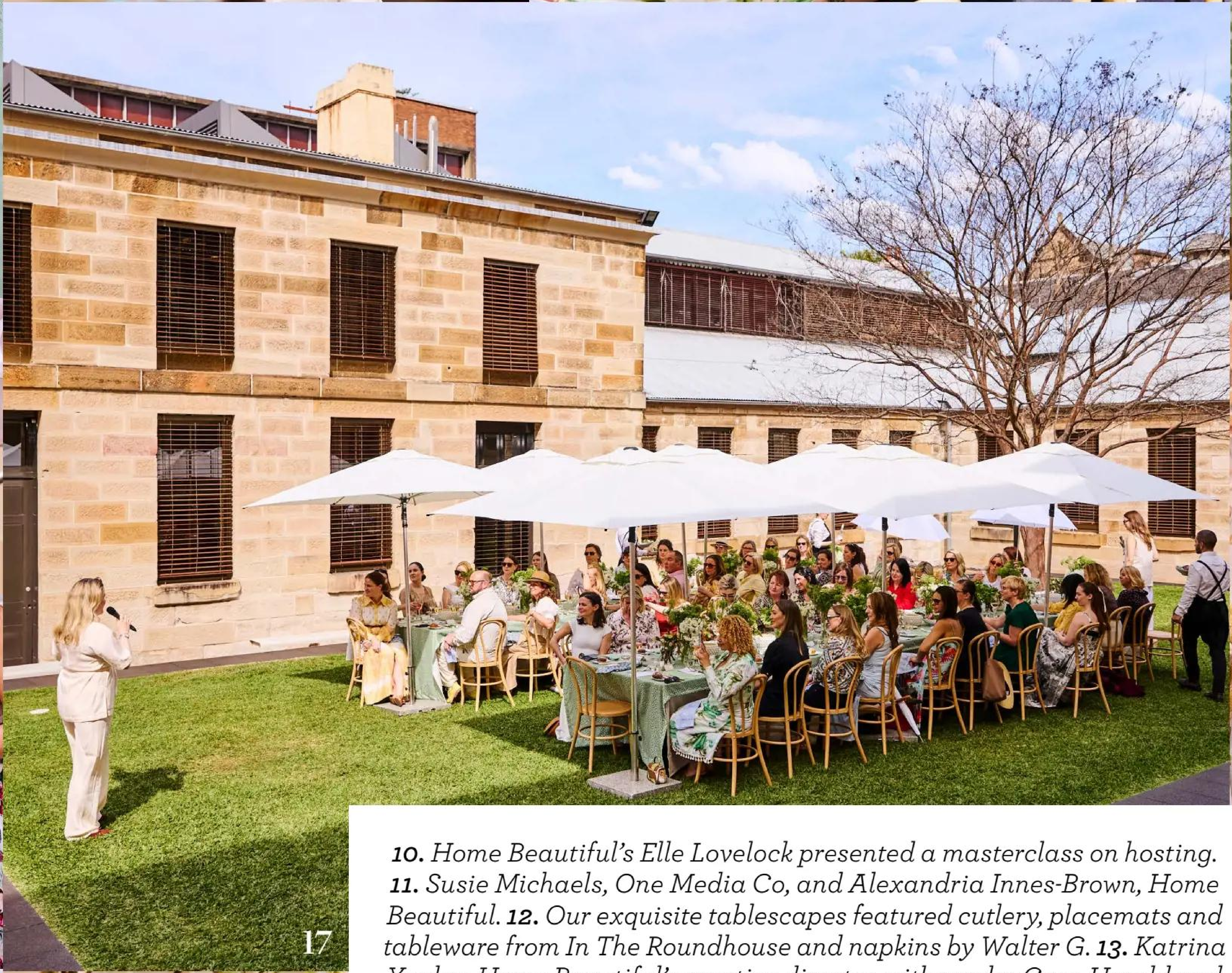
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__10.__ Home Beautiful's Elle Lovelock presented a masterclass on hosting. __11.__ Susie Michaels, One Media Co, and Alexandria Innes-Brown, Home Beautiful. __12.__ Our exquisite tablescapes featured cutlery, placemats and tableware from In The Roundhouse and napkins by Walter G. __13.__ Katrina Yaxley, Home Beautiful's creative director, with reader Cara Herald and Janette and Alex Stritt, both of Stritt Design & Construction. __14.__ Sarah Ward, Tara Lamond, Sonia Thompson and Sam Boughton, all from Coco Republic, with their exclusive Home Beautiful goodie bags that everyone was gifted at the end of the day. __15.__ A selection of Coco Republic's newly released furniture collection. __16.__ Circa candles offered sublime scent-scaping. __17.__ Guests enjoyed a three-course lunch at the sold-out event.

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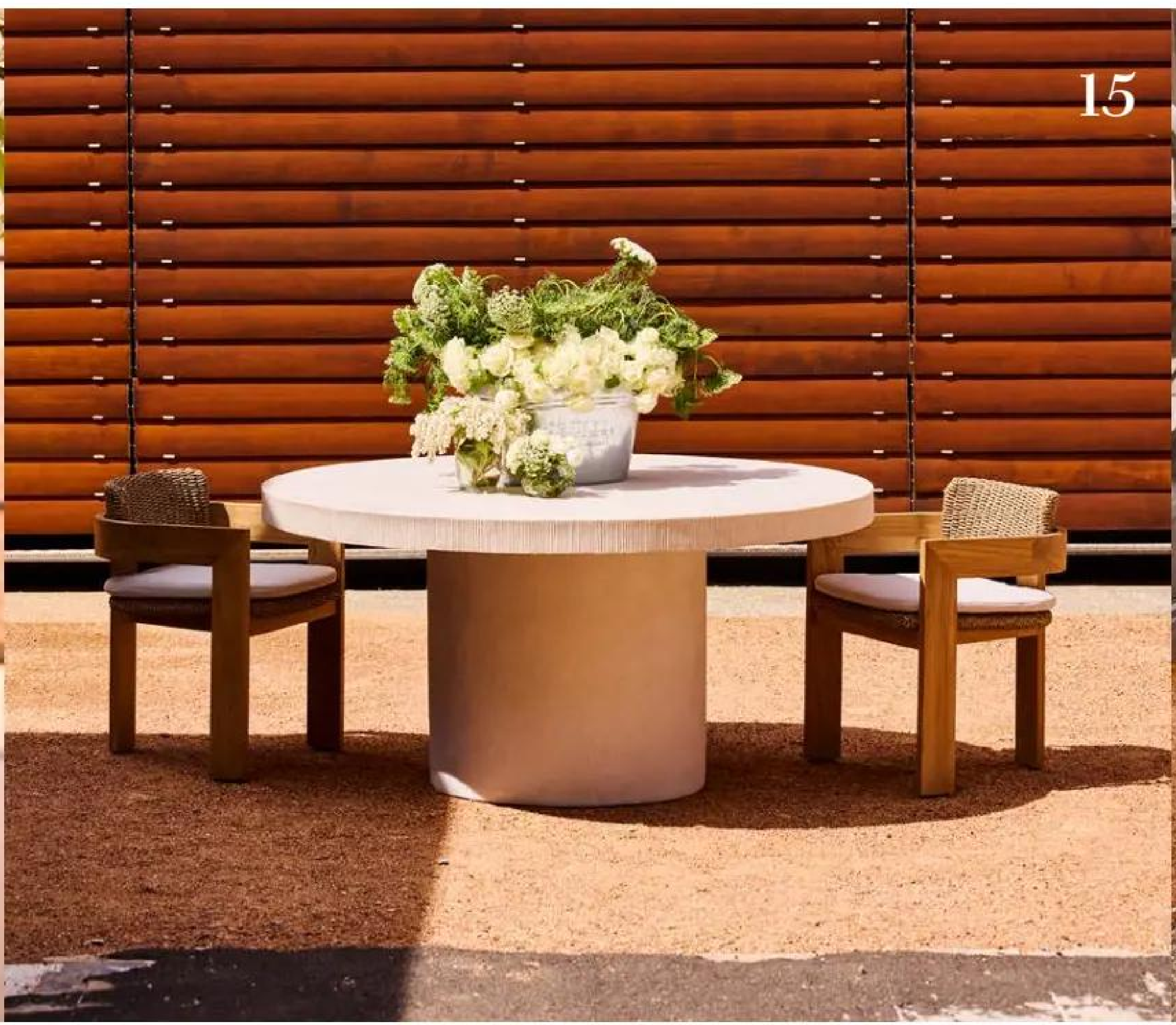
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YELLOW WAGTAIL
15p

Cross country

In an extract from her first book, *City, Coast & Country*, designer Adelaide Bragg takes inspiration from beautiful Australian landscapes to craft colour-kissed interiors

WORDS **ADELAIDE BRAGG & ROBYN LEA** | PHOTOGRAPHY **LISA COHEN**

PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE) **ROBYN LEA**

This page *The Nine Muses paisley fabric chosen for the bed cushion combines the varied colours and patterns in this bedroom. Traditional deep buttoning on the bedhead is given a contemporary twist with punchy yellow linen from Pierre Frey.* ***Opposite*** *Adelaide's moodboard for her sunshine, flax and hay palette.* **>**

At the beginning of her career in the early 1990s, Adelaide (pictured, this page) worked at Colefax & Fowler in Sydney under the tutelage of Australian designer Martine Burns. A number of those lessons continue to influence Adelaide's work today. "Martine used to say that a room needs something to muddle it up, that imperfection can make perfection." That guidance aligns with Adelaide's vision today and her affinity with the imperfections found in the natural world. A torn autumnal leaf, the tiny idiosyncrasies found in handmade seagrass wallcoverings or artisan-blocked textile patterns are equally appealing to her eye.

Adelaide frequently incorporates a painting, cushion or rug into a room to create an unexpected clash with the overall design scheme, piquing visual interest. Often, she'll introduce a single vivid colour, like mustard, to give a space a cultivated vibrancy. "These are joyous colours, and occasionally, if a room is a little dull, we throw the mustard yellow in, and it goes, 'Ding!' There is a certain shade of yellow that works in almost any environment."

While these rich and deep yellow tones are relatively recent additions in Adelaide's

This page *I'm never happier than when I am in rural Australia.* ***Opposite*** *I love using several patterns in a single space, as seen in this dining room with fabrics by Nine Muses and a silk and wool rug by Cadrys. Aubergine and mustard hues are unlikely friends, but they complement each other beautifully.* **>**

PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE) **ROBYN LEA** WALLPAPER (IN BACKGROUND) **HAMILTON WESTON 'CHAWTON VINE'**

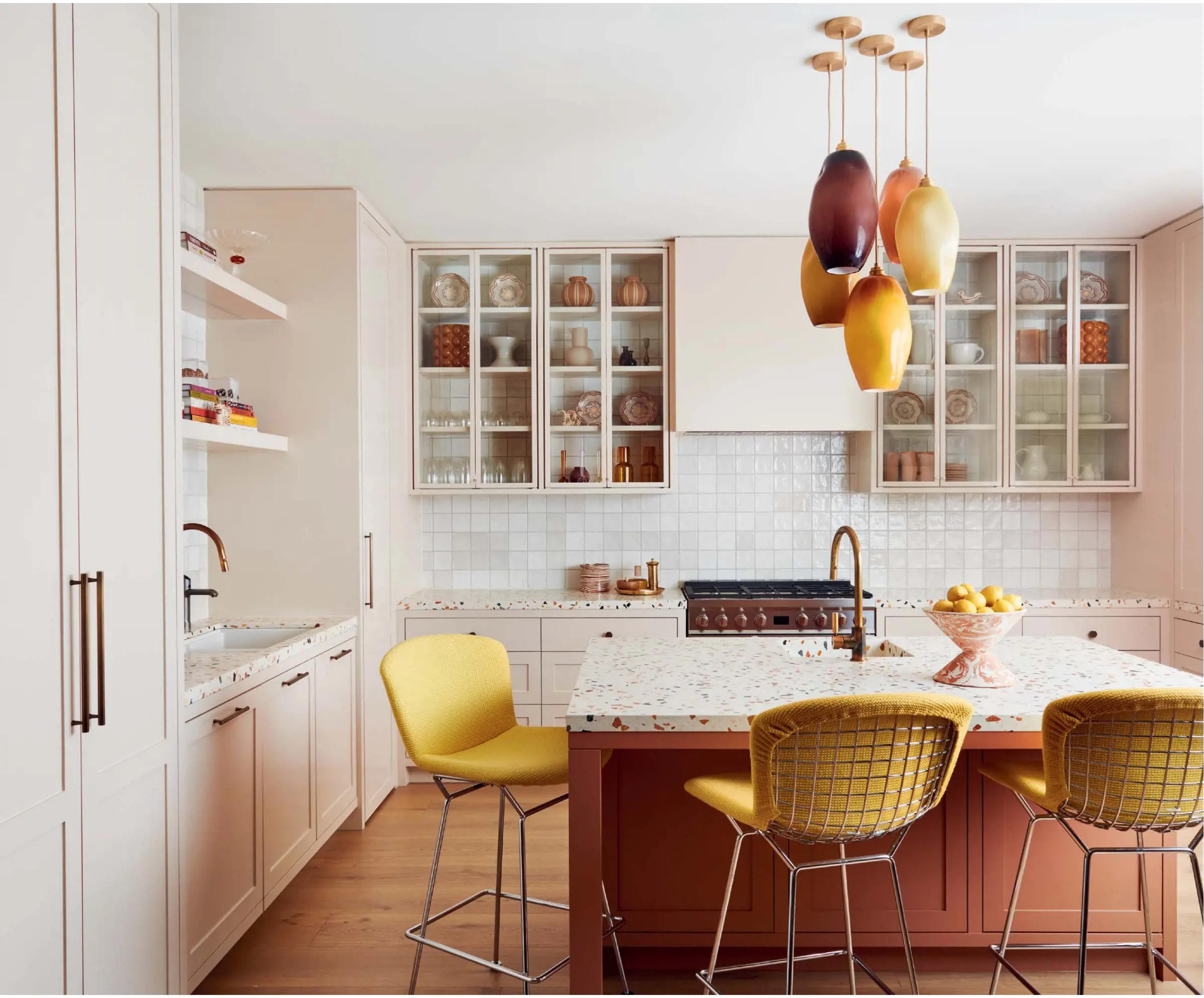
chromatic lexicon, their associations hark back to some of her earlier memories. "Buttery yellow is a colour that I love living with. It's the same shade as the fresh cream brought up from the dairy each morning in tin pails when I was growing up. It was a brighter yellow and thicker consistency than the cream you'd buy in shops. We'd have it with everything, and Mum would also use it to make the very best butter. So, for me, yellow is a happy colour and provides a pop of sunniness that feels joyous."

Added to the palette she loved at home were the sun-kissed hues of the small seaside town of Terrigal, where the family would holiday for a month each year at their beach house. Aside from the relief of escaping Rossgole's [where she was raised in the Upper Hunter Valley of New South Wales] high-summer heat and flies, Adelaide loved the fresh sea breeze and delighted in the bleached timber and caramel-coloured sand on offer there.

This may be the origin of her signature soft caramel, a colour she blends perfectly with other shades. "If you add the caramel, all of a sudden everything else pops. It provides a base that allows you to be brave with strong colours. That grounding tone ensures the really saturated hues, like a very strong yellow, can be truly liveable, balanced and easy on the eye. It is not as massive a jump visually from an earthy colour to a bright yellow as it would be from white to something super-saturated. You can be brave with strong colour in a space when it's balanced, and the surfaces have a natural weave or texture."

When Adelaide isn't using colour to add an element of perfect imperfection into a room, she'll sometimes introduce a contrasting pattern, like checks, to give a space more personality. In recent times she has also embraced spots, which speak to the halcyon days of her childhood years in the family home. She vividly recalls finding a sheet of newly minted stamps on her father's desk. Printed down one side, like little spots of joy, were a series of technicolour circles used by the printers to check the reproduction of each hue. Adelaide stopped in her tracks: she recalls feeling electrified by the colours and she recognises now that it was a defining creative moment in her early life. It's this level of excitement and delight that Adelaide seeks to share with her clients when using golden hues.

"AUSTRALIAN LANDSCAPES, IN ALL THEIR VARIED GLORY, SHOWCASE ALL OF MY FAVOURITE COLOURS – LIKE THE DEEP GOLD GRASSES SEEN IN THESE VAST PADDOCKS IN THE LATE SUMMER" **ADELAIDE BRAGG**



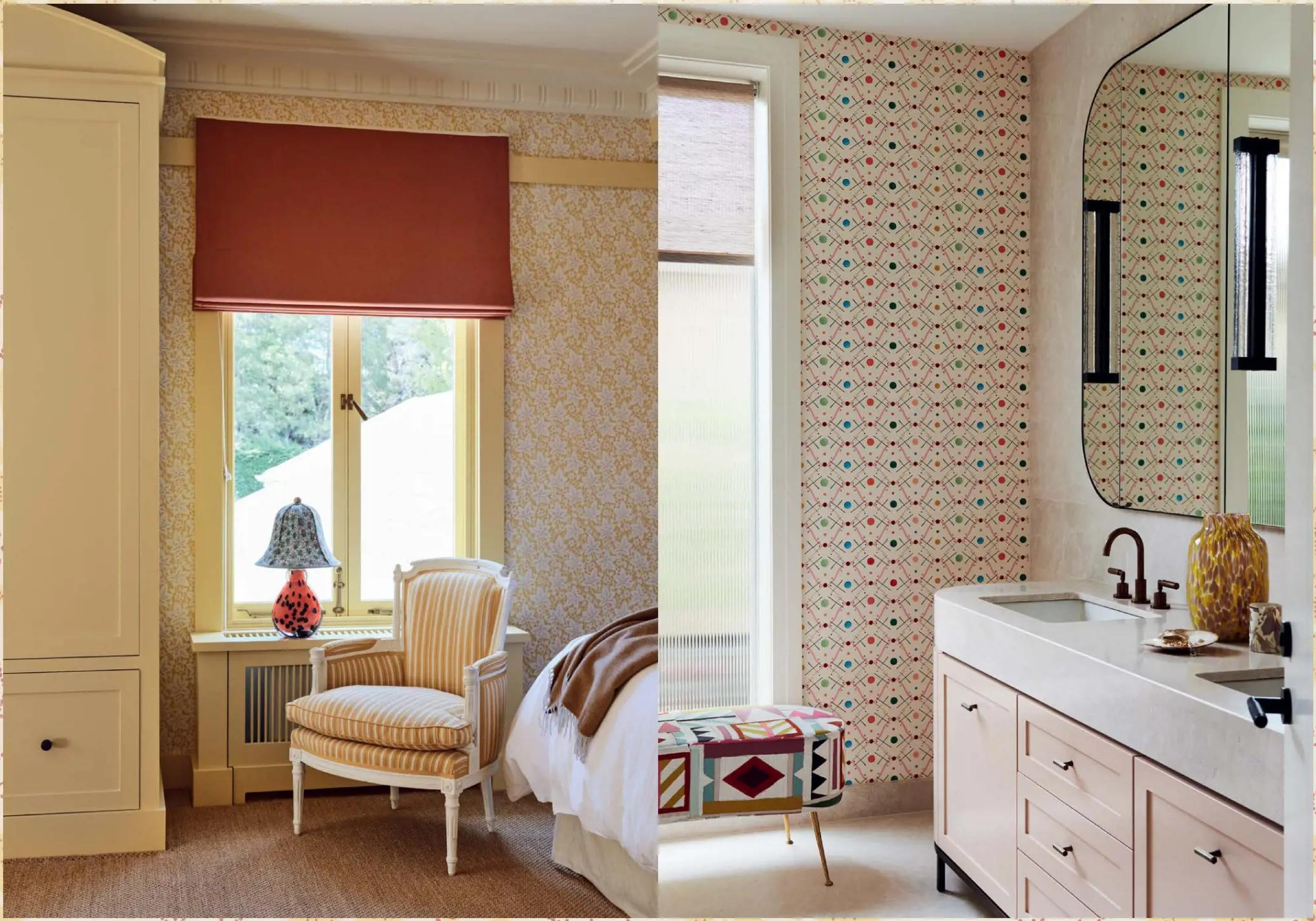
This page *In recent years, I've been increasingly drawn to vivid accent colours, and this apartment, which I designed in collaboration with architect Russell Casper, provided the perfect opportunity to play with a vibrant palette. Colour takes centre stage in the kitchen, with a pendant light in custom hues by Melbourne-based designer Mark Douglass. Similar shades are used on the seat cushions of the Bertoia barstools and in a curated collection of items in the glass-front kitchen cabinets, styled by Tess Newman-Morris.* ***Opposite*** *Vistas such as this one of the Grampians from my clients' property remind me of the land of my childhood.* **>**

PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE) DEREK SWALWELL ARTWORK (OPPOSITE) ARTIST UNKNOWN

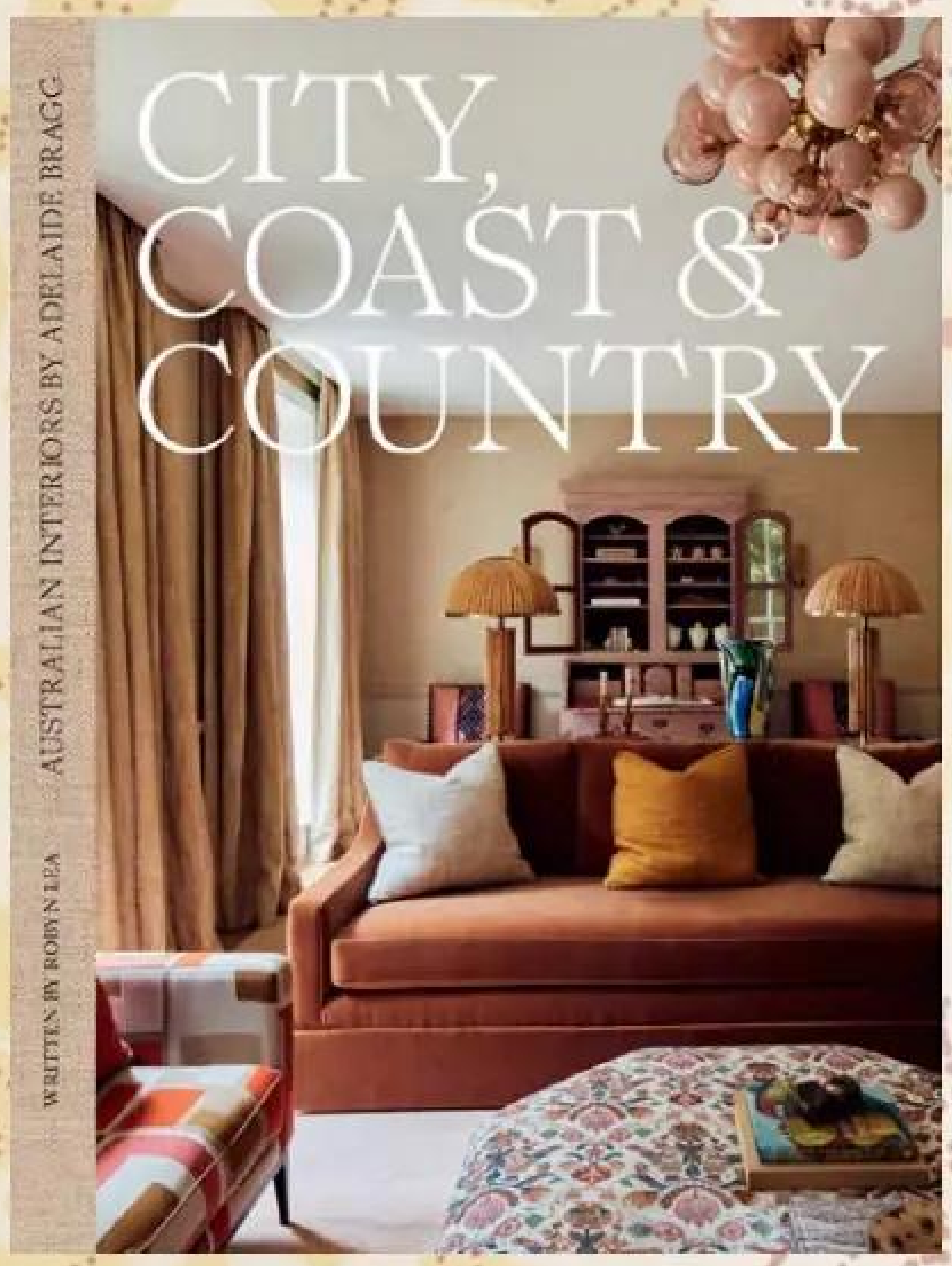
This page *A charming guest bedroom was created using two of my favourite fabrics from Nine Muses. One covers the bedhead, while the other was used to make the curtains. The room's unusual ceiling lines provided an opportunity to play with accent paint colours and 'Marigold' Braquenié wallpaper by Pierre Frey.* ***Opposite*** *Autumn in the Macedon Ranges.* **>**

ATHENS
RIVIERA
AUSTRALIA
FLAVOURS
The Life Eclectic

***This page** In this children's bedroom (left) a charming handcrafted Porta Romana table lamp shade is covered in 'Fontwell' blue fabric from Soane, one of my favourite British artisan suppliers. I love the contrast of a whimsical Ottoline wallpaper against a sophisticated Crema Marfil marble bathroom (right). **Opposite** As is often seen in the natural world, vivid hues are beautifully offset by natural tones. The caramel-coloured wall panelling, textured wallpaper and curtains in this room provide a soft backdrop for the punchy tangerine, rich reds and assorted patterns, both traditional and modern.*



WALLPAPER (IN BACKGROUND) **HAMILTON WESTON 'CHAWTON VINE'**

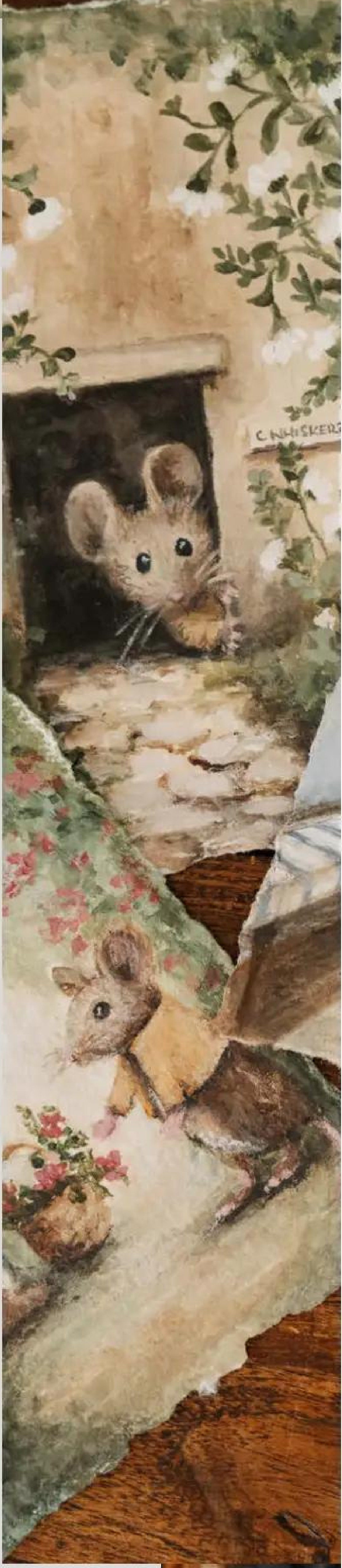


LOCAL LEGEND

This is an edited extract from 'City, Coast & Country' by Adelaide Bragg with Robyn Lea, with photography by Lisa Cohen and Robyn Lea, published by Thames & Hudson Australia, $90. HB

AT A GLANCE

Who *The owner and designer behind Fledge & Thread, Keren Fraser.*
What she does *Illustrates baby and children's clothing and bedding, paints original decor and artworks, and creates an audio book series.*
Where *In her colour-drenched home studio in Western Australia.*
Why she does it *"My hope is that our designs build on the imagination for little ones."*
Visit *fledgeandthread.com.au; @fledgeandthread*

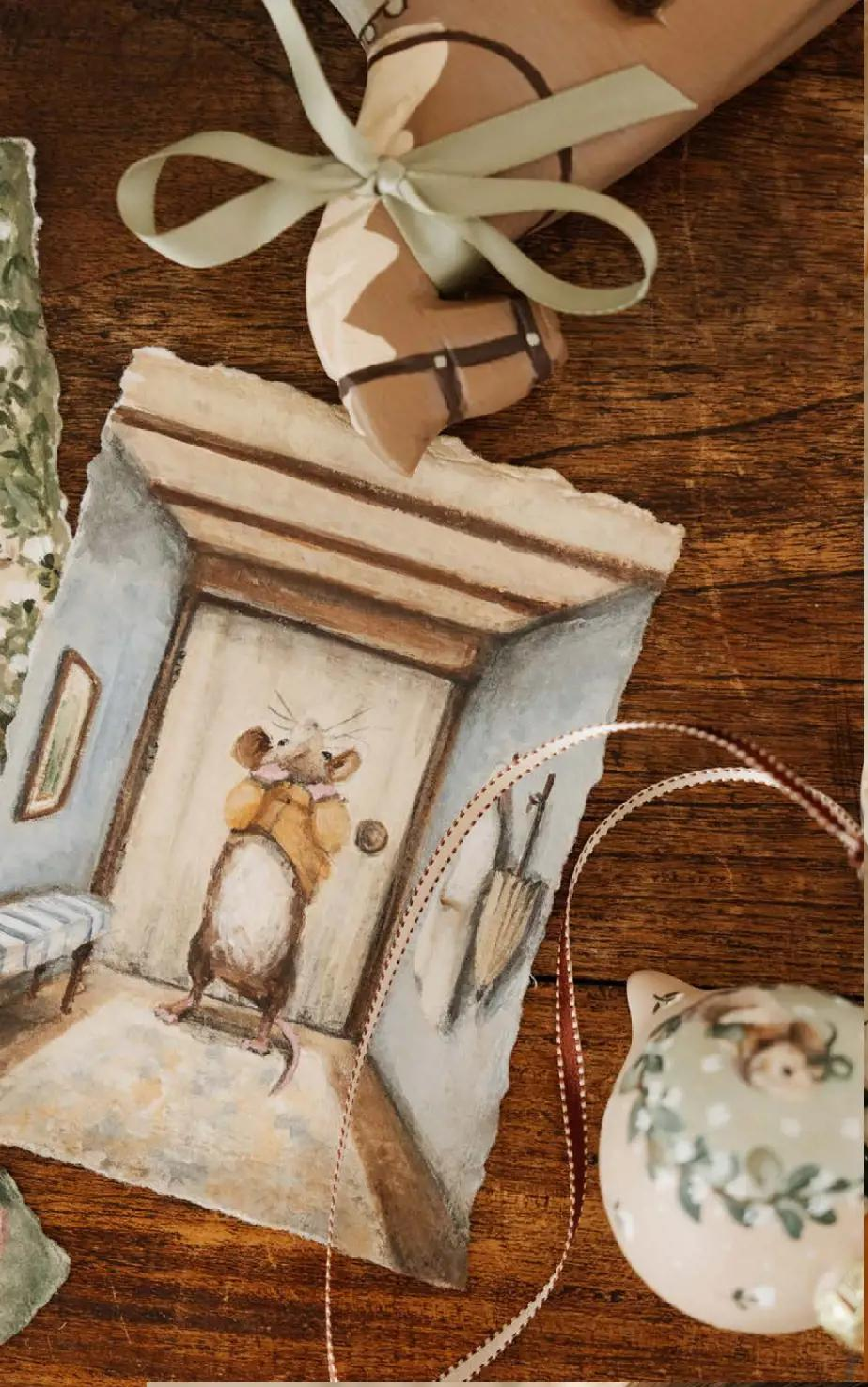


Creative collection

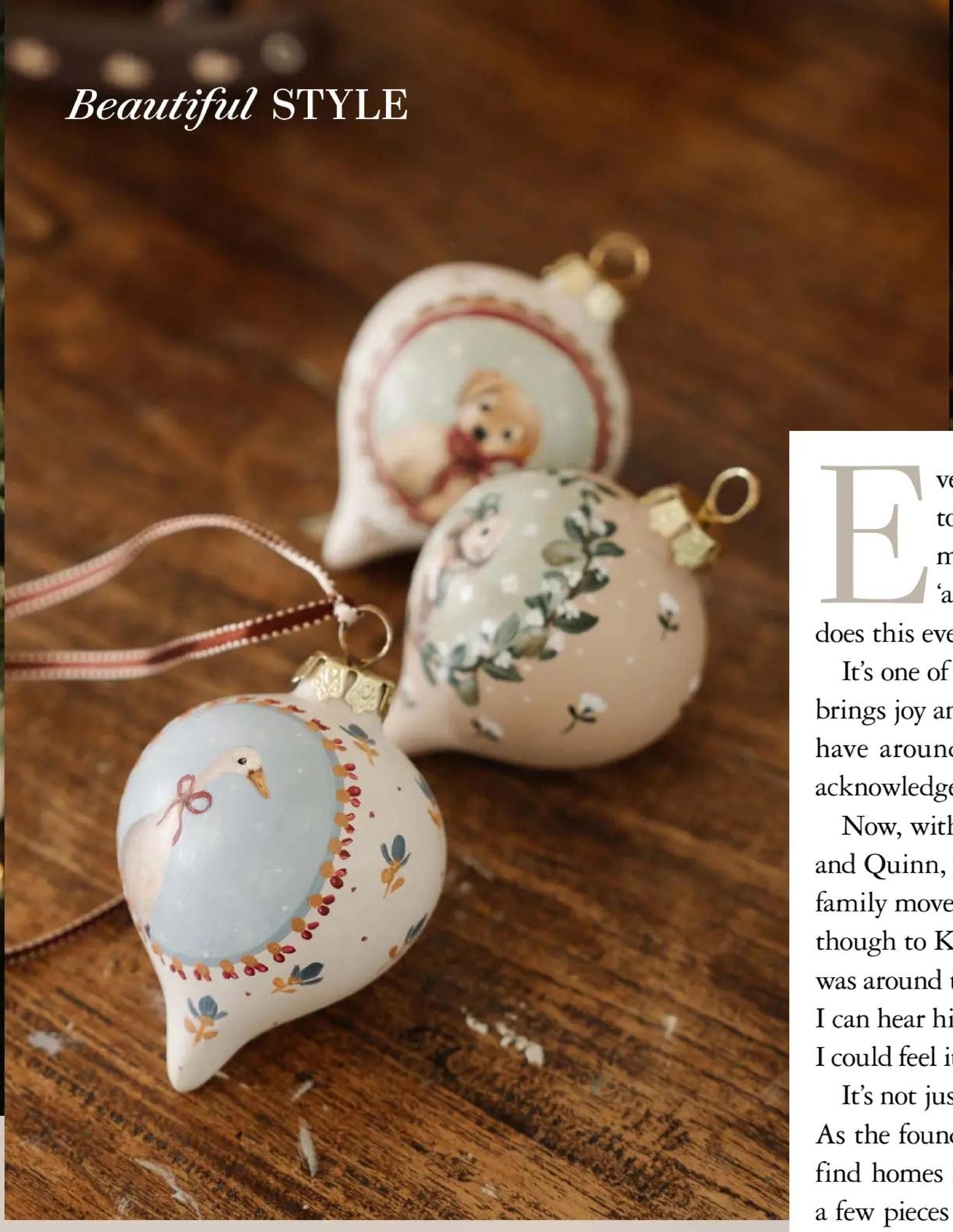
Santa's little ILLUSTRATOR

Keren Fraser, founder of Fledge & Thread, creates handpainted ornaments and whimsical children's pieces that capture the magic of Christmas

STORY **REBECCA HOOTON** | PHOTOGRAPHY **TRISTAN McKENZIE**



Creature comforts *Talented artist Keren (pictured) from Fledge & Thread uses a mix of paints to create original works. These range from handpainted decorative plates (opposite), to Christmas ornaments and illustrations for her upcoming children's book, 'Mr Whiskers Finds His Whiskers' (this page, left). She's even designed her own blouse, which she hopes to launch on her online store soon. >*



Every year, Keren and her sister end up in hysterics as they attempt to recreate a Christmas cake that their mum used to bake. "We make it the same way every year, but the recipe says things like 'a pinch of this' and 'a dash of that', so we're there going, 'What does this even mean?!'" Keren says with a laugh.

It's one of those festive traditions that may not make much sense, but it brings joy and meaning to the season. "You miss the people who you don't have around anymore, so it's kind of bittersweet at the same time," acknowledges Keren, whose mother's absence is deeply felt.

Now, with her husband Mathew and their two children, Lennox, eight, and Quinn, five, making the season magical matters more than ever. The family moved into their "eclectic but classic" Art Deco home six years ago, though to Keren it feels like yesterday. "When we first walked in, Lennox was around two years old," she recalls. "I said to Mat, 'If we get this house, I can hear his little footsteps running down the hallway.' It was so strange, I could feel it in my body. Now, we have two kids who run up the hallway."

It's not just her own children Keren hopes to pass the festive spirit on to. As the founder of Fledge & Thread, she crafts Christmas ornaments that find homes far and wide. "I've got collectors around the world who buy a few pieces every year to pass on to future generations," she says. "It's so lovely, it makes me quite emotional, actually."

Like Santa, the talented illustrator will be busy in her workshop in the lead-up to Christmas, creating 12 one-of-a-kind baubles. From a little duck, to a labrador with a red bow, each is handpainted with a charming animal in a festive scene. "As a child, I used to imagine these little creatures in the woods behind our house, so I think I draw on that," Keren says.

This year, there will be a select number of handpainted wooden rocking horses, too. "Last year, I only launched three of them and they sold out straightaway," she says. But perhaps the most delightful new piece of work to come from Fledge & Thread this year is an audio Christmas story series, designed to accompany the baby rompers and children's pyjamas. "The stories have the same characters in them as the ones on the Christmas range," Keren explains. "I thought it would be a really nice connection for kids, because they love stories around Christmastime."

It will be a merry buzz of activity in her home studio for several more weeks, before Keren, Mathew and their children head down the coast to see Keren's dad, sister, brother and their families. "I think that was the biggest thing for Mum, she always wanted us to stay together and close as a family," shares Keren – and that's one tradition that needs no explanation.

Family favourites *Fledge & Thread founder Keren has been putting the finishing touches on a range of handpainted ceramic baubles (above, left). For the creative, Christmas is about time with family, including her husband Mathew, their children Lennox and Quinn (pictured wearing a dress from Fledge & Thread), and their Labrador Archie, British Shorthair cat Mac and Cavoodle Sully (shown).* HB

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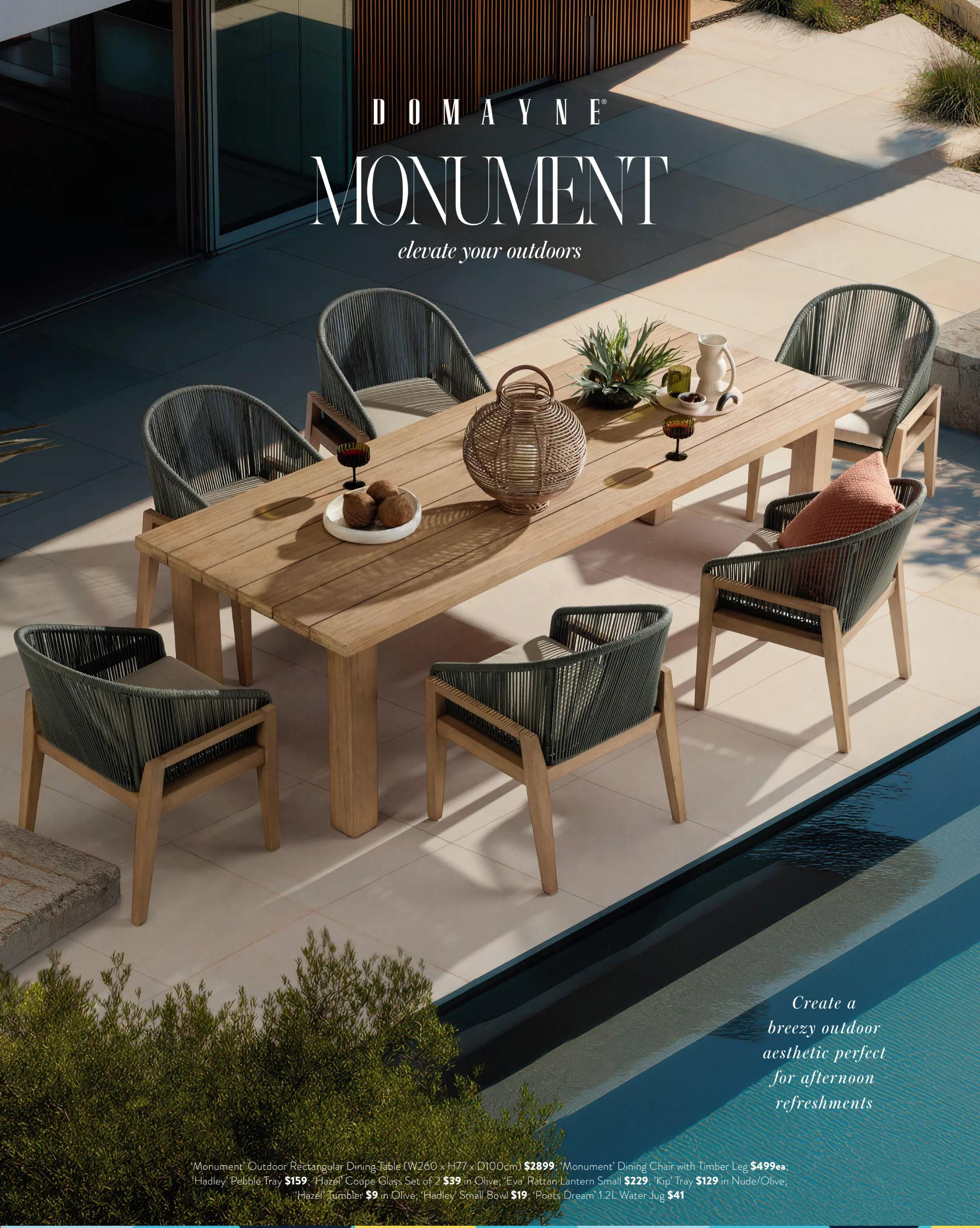

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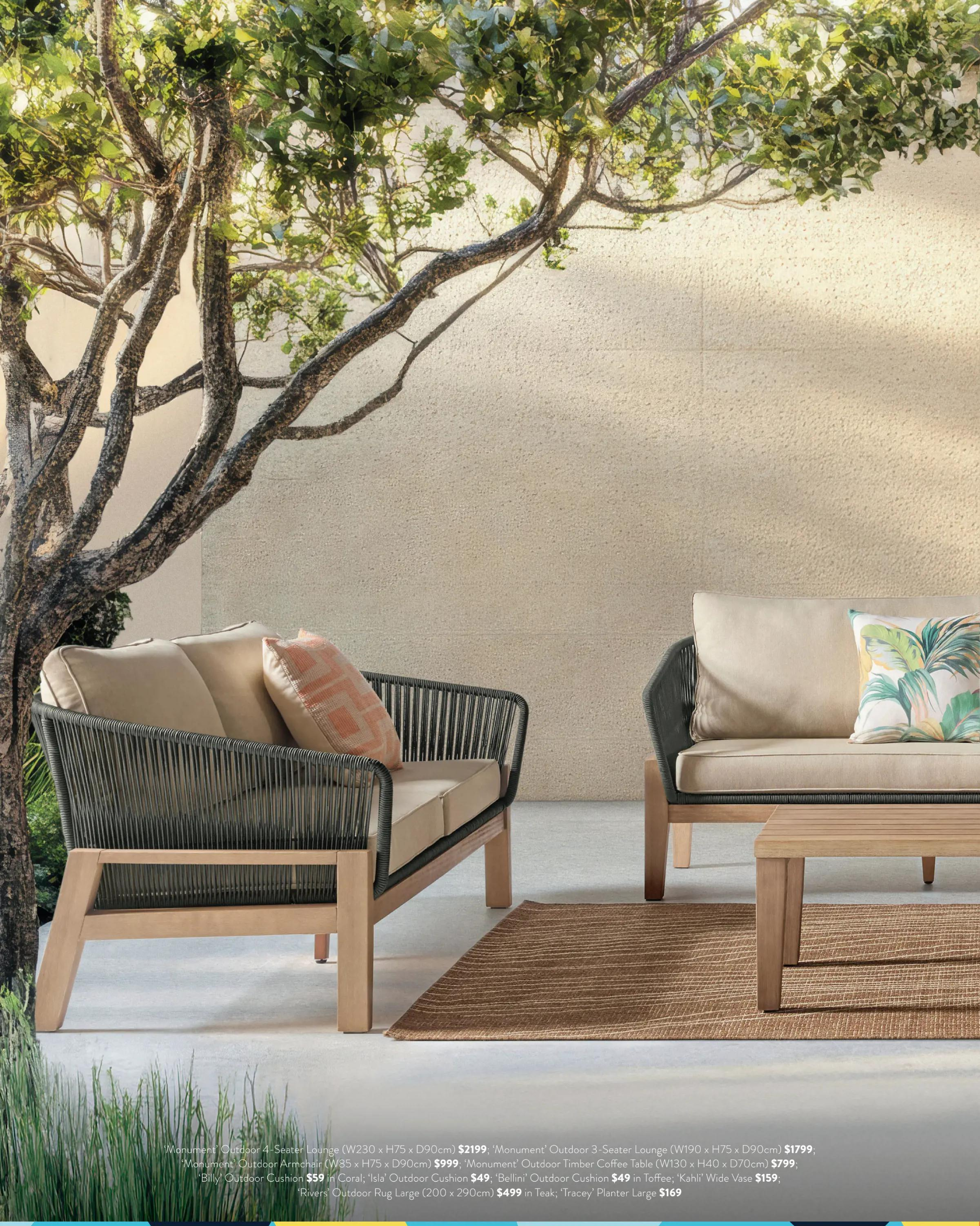

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NEW CONSTRUCTIONS AND STRUCTURAL RENOVATIONS TO INSPIRE

PHOTOGRAPHY LOUISE ROCHE

SURF'S UP
PAGE 44

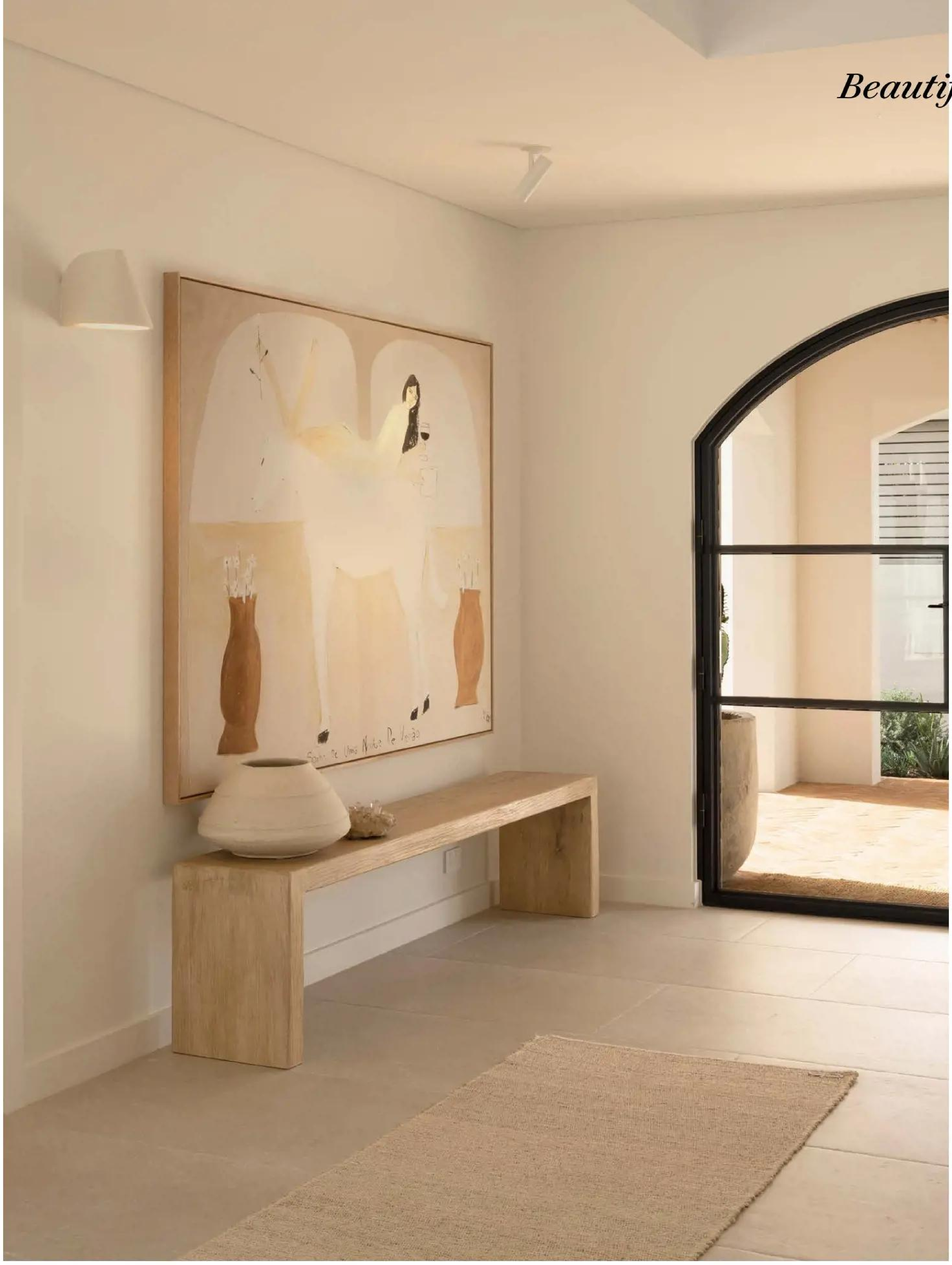
Mediterranean-style rebuild

SURF'S UP

Every day feels like a holiday in this special home, where social gatherings and solo pursuits are both catered for equally

STORY **STEPHANIE HOPE** | STYLING **DAKOTA DRURY** | PHOTOGRAPHY **LOUISE ROCHE**

Beachside bliss *This new build in Sydney ticks all the boxes for couple Justine and Andrew. "From the beginning, I dreamed of a statement entrance, a seamless indoor-outdoor flow from the kitchen [this page], and the walk-in wardrobe of my dreams," says Justine. In the entry (opposite), a print by Balinese artist, Riz Riz Rizz, hangs above a Chartwell Home 'Chrysanthe' console from Temple & Webster. A 'Lahari' jute runner from The Dharma Door sits on 'Superclassica SCB Beige' tiled floors from House of Surfaces.*



Keen to downsize, Justine and Andrew sold their family home with a lengthy settlement of six months to allow plenty of time for them to find the next place. With just seven weeks left before this period was up, Justine found a four-bedroom home for sale 600 metres away in a beachside suburb of southern Sydney. "Andy was out surfing and by the time he came home, I was running out the door to see it," recalls Justine. "We both saw the potential in it immediately." The location held special significance for Justine and Andrew, who had previously owned a home on the same street when their two daughters were little.

PLANNING PROCESS

As soon as the place was theirs, Justine called her best friend Ky Drury, founder of interior design firm Studio Haus Co, who helped hone the vision for a modern Mediterranean-style home. "Like most projects, navigating council approvals took longer than expected, particularly given the home's large footprint," says Ky. It was a team effort, with Lowi Interiors taking care of the spatial planning, Studio Haus Co overseeing material selections and styling, and Pro Design Building managing the build. Rebuilding rather than renovating allowed them to completely transform the home's functionality and aesthetic. >

ALL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

STYLE BEHIND THE DESIGN

To embrace a modern Mediterranean style, Justine maximised the home's natural light with soaring living area ceilings up to four metres high and designed the spaces to create a seamless indoor-outdoor flow. The open-plan dining, living and kitchen zones provide places for spreading out and coming together, while the bedrooms and bathrooms feature luxury furnishings and tactile finishes to cement their haven-like status.

***Kitchen** "This space is truly the heart of the home," says Justine (pictured opposite with husband Andrew). It has 'Navurban' veneer joinery in The Oaks, Dekton benchtops and a Sensa quartzite island in Taj Mahal, both from Cosentino. 'Owan' pendants from MCM House hang above the island where Coco Republic stools are tucked in, while cabinets by Trend Joinery display keepsakes.*

BUILDING TIMELINE

SEP 2021
HOME PURCHASED

DEC 2021
ARCHITECT ENGAGED

AUG 2022
DESIGN COMPLETED
AND DA LODGED

OCT 2022
STUDIO HAUS CO
ENGAGED

OCT 2023
DA APPROVED

MAR 2024
BUILDING COMMENCED

FEB 2025
BUILDING COMPLETED

> “HE LOVES SPENDING TIME IN THE GARDEN, WHILE I LOVE COOKING, SO IT’S A HOUSE THAT TRULY SUITS BOTH OUR PASSIONS” **JUSTINE**

BUDGET BREAKDOWN

Justine and Andrew had a budget in mind for this rebuild but admit that, like many projects during the Covid period, this figure blew out slightly due to supply chain challenges and material availability. The overall total spend of $1,120,000 covered approximately $50,000 in demolition costs, $396,000 for the building, plumbing and electrical works, $142,000 for the luxe steel doors, $200,000 for joinery, $45,000 for the architect, $60,000 for interior consultations, $21,000 for the home’s tapware, $40,000 for the appliances and $20,000 for the landscaping, which Andrew did himself.

“We made a last-minute decision to upgrade to porcelain benchtops, which added to the cost, but the result was worth it and the finished product exceeded our expectations,” shares Justine. >

Dining *Upon entering, visitors' eyes are drawn to the dramatic four-metre-high ceilings with exposed beams. The formal dining area makes a statement with a Casa Blanco 'Bullet' dining table and Croft House 'Sierra' chairs, a 'Willow' rug from Armadillo, custom leather pendants sourced from Bali and a Coco Republic mirror. An artwork by Sophia Lind rests on the shelves above the bar area.*

GET *the* LOOK

Clockwise from top left *Sensa* ***quartzite*** *in Taj Mahal, Cosentino. 'Bianca Casa' mini bejmat* ***tiles*** *in White/Beige (210mm x 200mm sheet), $470/sqm, Di Lorenzo Tiles. 'Willow'* ***rug*** *in Eggshell, $1400/240cm x 170cm, Armadillo. 'Roma' antiqued* ***floor mirror****, $2395/240cm x 120cm, Coco Republic. Mokum 'Pueblo'* ***fabric*** *in Dust, $157/m, The Fabric Editors. 'Superclassica SCB Beige'* ***quartzite*** *in Natural, from $105/sqm, Di Lorenzo Tiles. 'Navurban'* ***veneer*** *in The Oaks, from $70.35/sqm, New Age Veneers. 'Badami' jute* ***runner*** *in Natural, $695/300cm x 80cm, The Dharma Door.* **>**

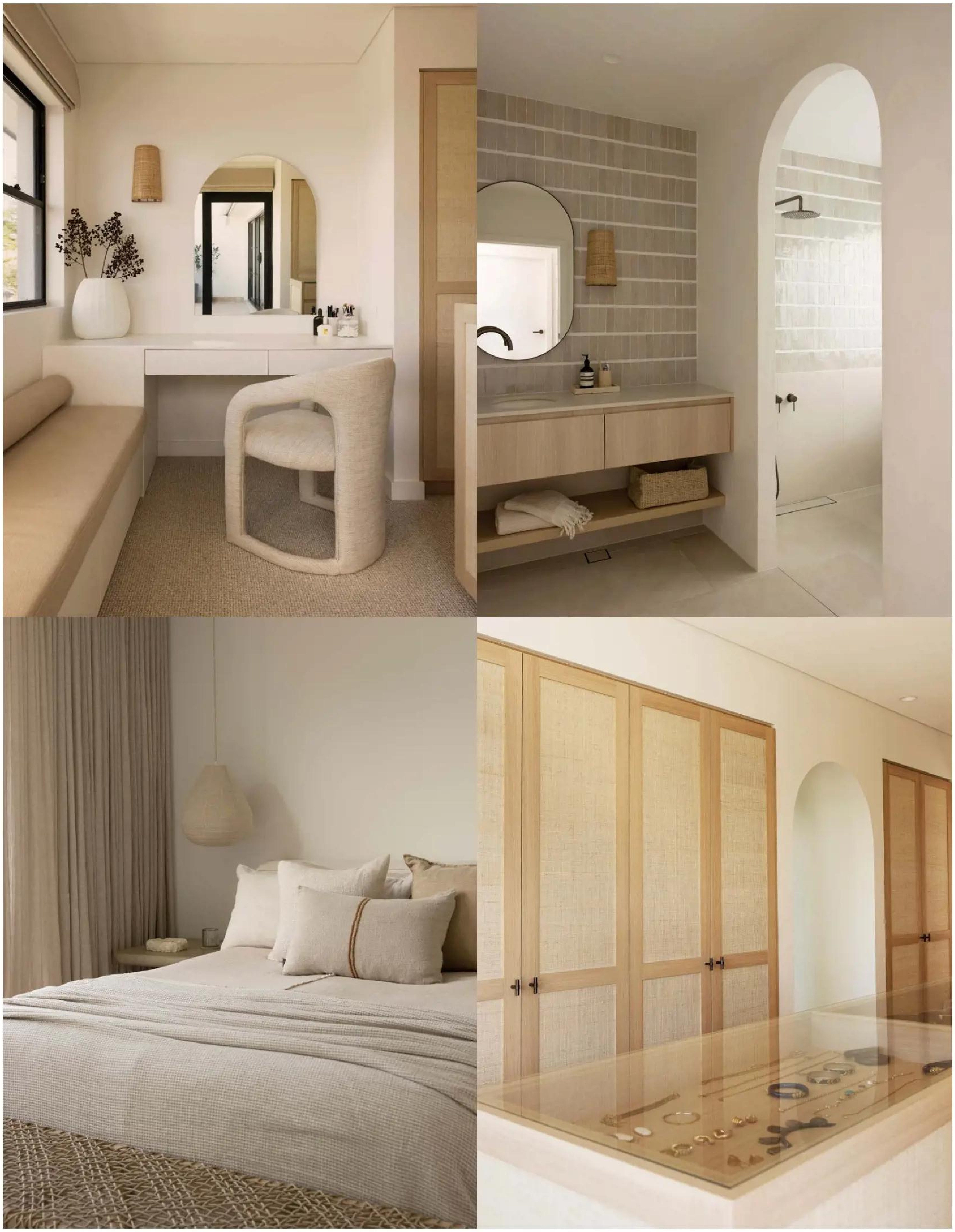
SPECIAL FEATURES

The sign of a well-executed project is when the homeowner declares, "It's hard to choose just one favourite thing!" But when pressed, Justine names a few highlights. "I adore my walk-in wardrobe – it's divine and even has built-in speakers, making getting ready a joy," she says. The kitchen's Bora induction cooktop with its built-in extractor also gets the nod, while Andrew enjoys the statement Paul Agnew Designs fireplace. "Coming home to our new place fills us with so much joy."

LESSONS LEARNT

While this wasn't the first home that Justine and Andrew have built together, they were reminded of the importance of surrounding themselves with the right people. "Having our dream team in place meant no costly mistakes and the process felt collaborative rather than stressful," says Justine. "Along the way, the inevitable challenges were quickly resolved because everyone was just a phone call away." Being flexible helped as well, as it meant the couple were able to quickly make alternative decisions when things weren't going to plan. >

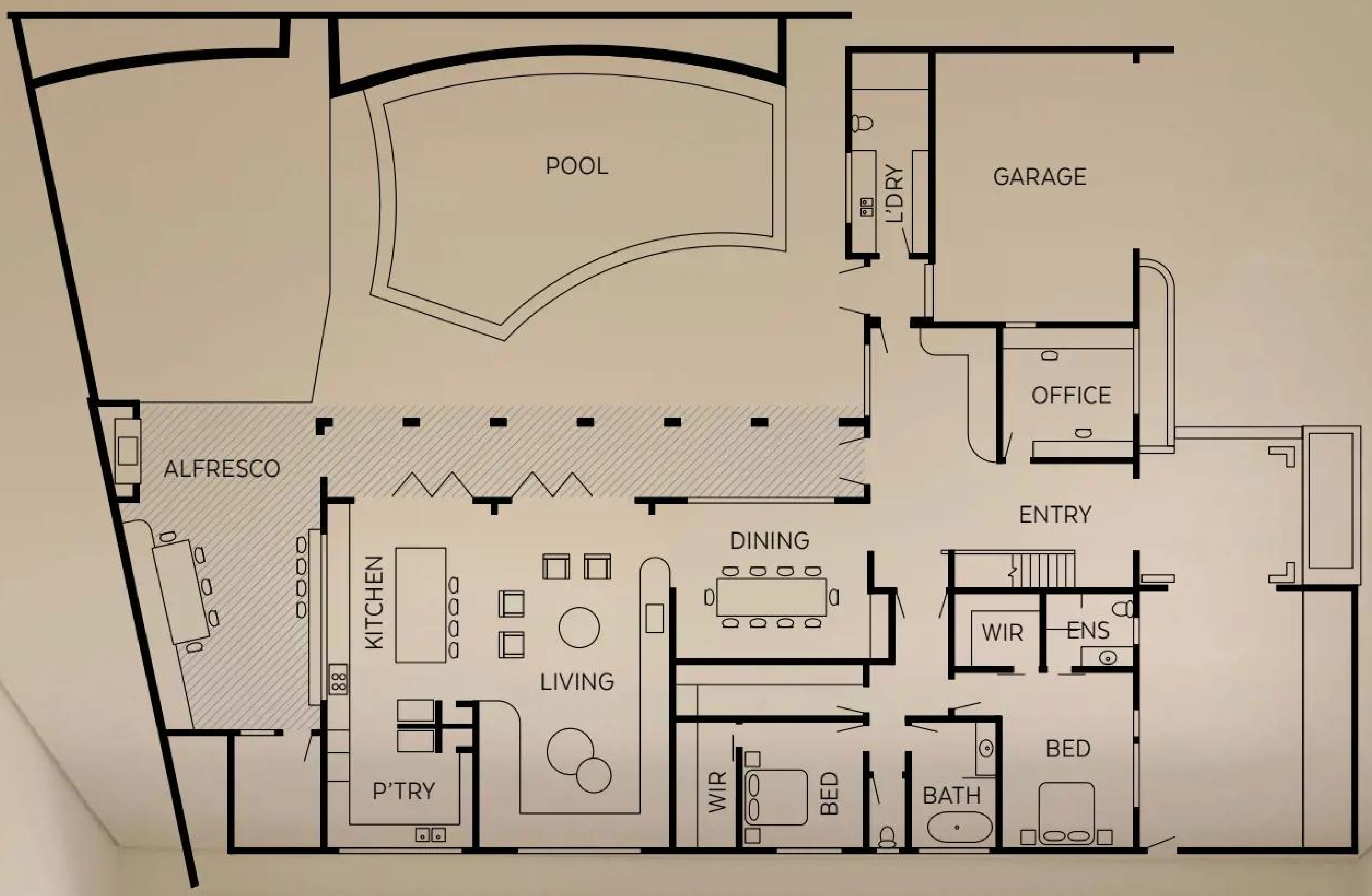
Living *The living space is designed for comfort and entertaining with two 'Sidney Slouch' chaises from Globe West, an Armadillo 'Corsica' rug and a Casa Blanco 'Palazzo' rectangle coffee table around the Paul Agnew Designs fireplace. "Mercadier Cocomilk microcement features on the built-in seating, entertainment unit and shelving, adding texture and cohesion," says Ky.*



***Walk-in wardrobe** The window seat in the walk-in wardrobe (top left & bottom right) is upholstered in Mokum 'Pueblo' jute fabric from James Dunlop Textiles, while a 'Fikile' chair from Uniqwa Collections sits at the vanity. Rattan doors by Trend Joinery are a feature. **Bathroom** The downstairs bathroom (top right) has 'Superclassica SCB Beige' floor tiles from House of Surfaces and 'Bianca Casa' mini bejmat wall tiles from Di Lorenzo Tiles. Wall lights from Gypset Cargo. **Bedroom** Plush textures, such as in the Ravello bedlinen, reign in this bedroom (bottom left). 'Cloud' pendants from Ochre & Silk and a Uniqwa Collections 'Sweni' bench continue the look. **Main ensuite** A 'Scala' bath from ABI Interiors takes pride of place in the main ensuite (opposite). Studio Haus Co selected bejmat natural clay floor tiles from Di Lorenzo Tiles and the vanity is in Mercadier microcement in Cocomilk and Dekton from Cosentino.* >

FLOOR PLAN

GROUND FLOOR


POOL
L'DRY
GARAGE
OFFICE
ALFRESCO
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DINING
KITCHEN
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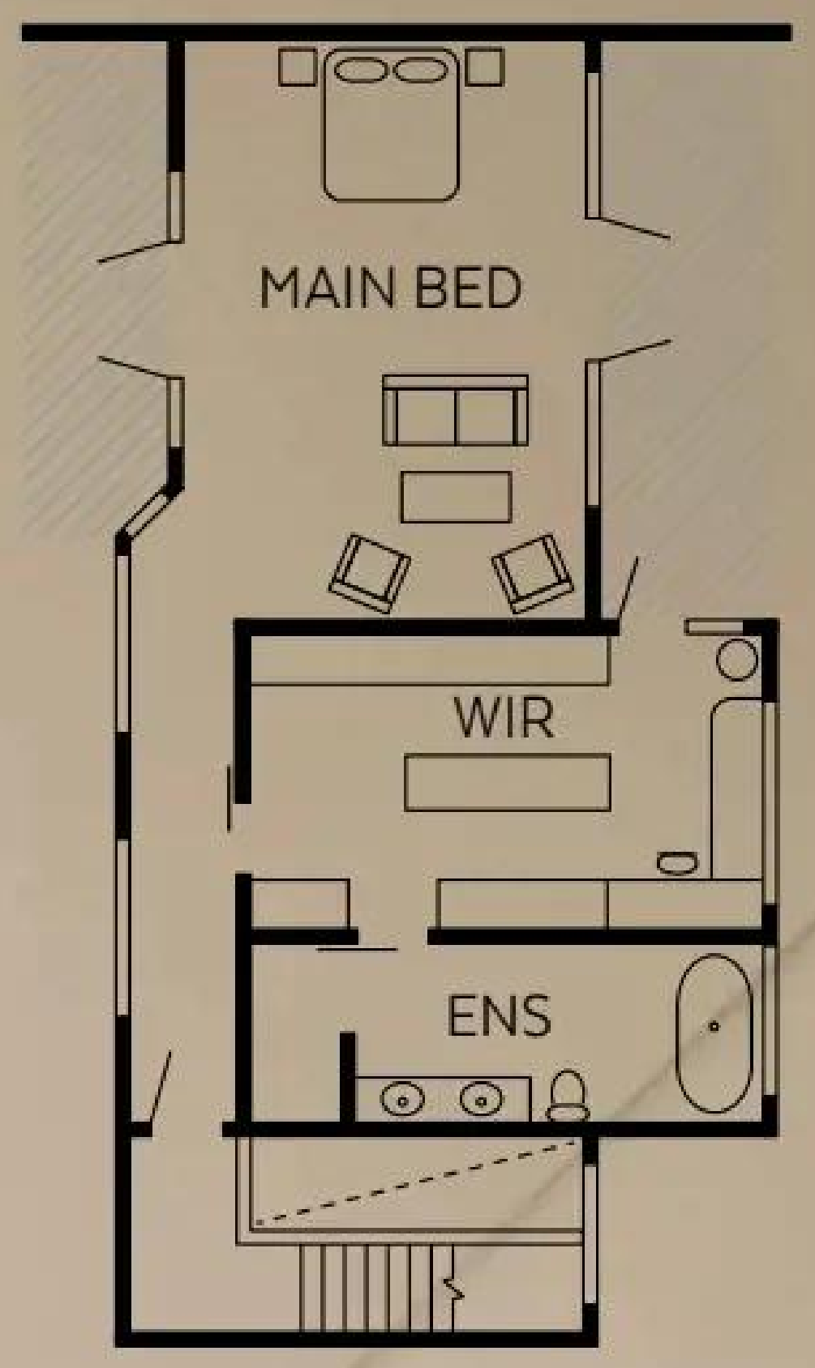
BED
BATH

FIRST FLOOR


MAIN BED
WIR
ENS

Alfresco *The abode's relaxed living zones flow outside, where an outdoor kitchen and alfresco meals area are made for entertaining. The dining table and chairs are from Uniqwa Collections. Cushions from Eadie Lifestyle dot the built-in seating for added comfort.*

SOURCE BOOK

Spatial planning *Lowi Interiors, lowi.com.au.*
Material selection & styling *Studio Haus Co, studiohausco.com.*
Builder *Pro Design Building, prodesignbuilding.com.au.*
Joinery *Trend Joinery, trendjoinery.com.au.*
Microcement *Bespoke Plaster Finishes, bespokeplasterfinishes.au.*

GET THE LOOK

From left *Uniqwa Collections 'Seychelles'* ***dining chair*** *in Natural, $979, Jarvis + Jarvis. Dulux Wash&Wear* ***paint*** *in Tuft (top), $102.95/4L, and Lexicon Quarter (bottom), $102.95/4L. Inartisan 'Xanthe' sandstone* ***bowl****, $249/medium, Aura Home. Linen* ***bath towel*** *in Natural, $160, Cultiver. 'Tamarind' 1000mm round linen* ***shade*** *in Natural, $379, Beacon Lighting. 'Tiki'* ***wall light****, $399, Nook Collections.*

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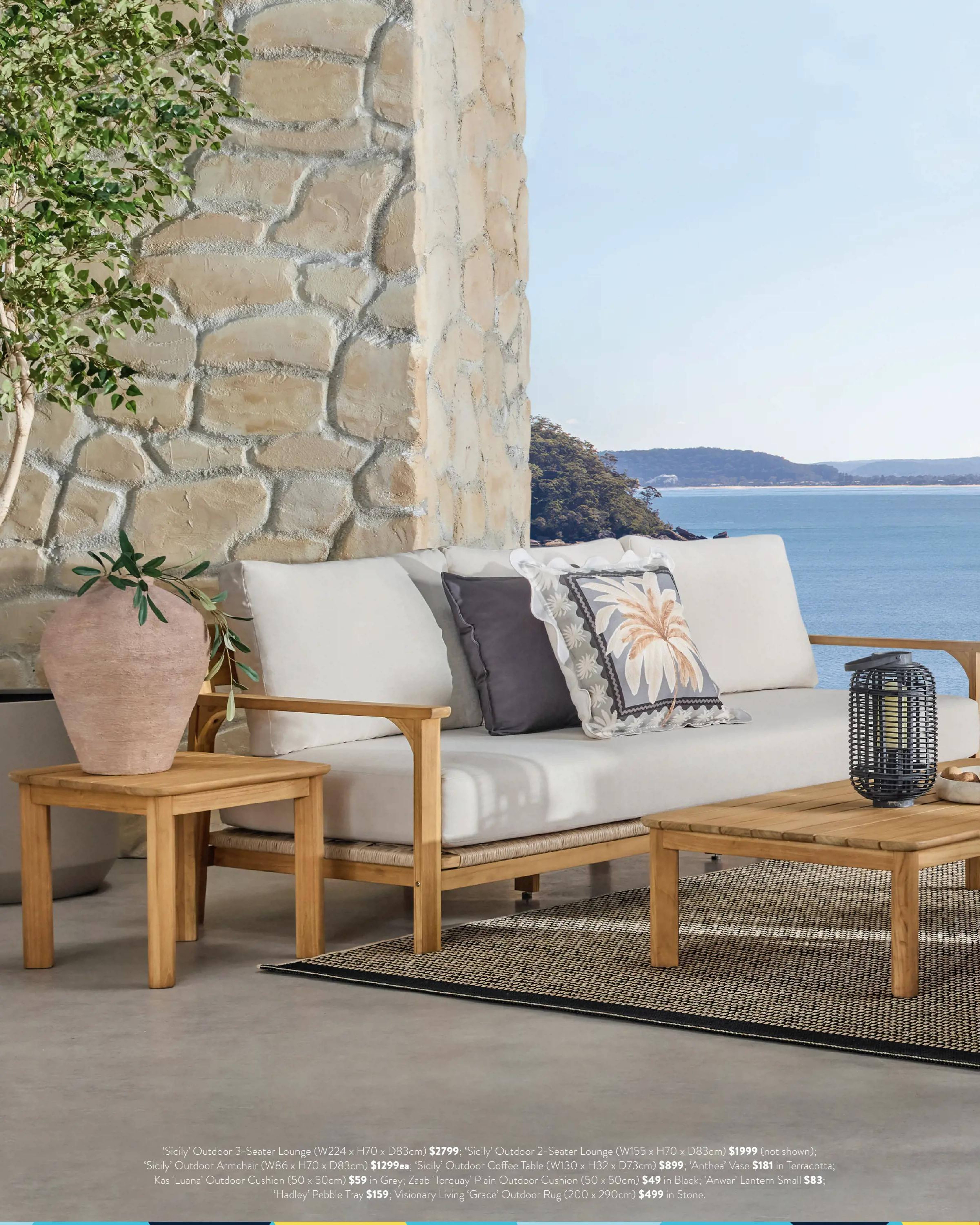
Crafted with a durable teak timber frame, dine in effortless style with the 'Sicily' range

'Sicily' Outdoor 220cm Rectangular Dining Table (W220 x H75 x D95cm) **$1899**; 'Sicily' Outdoor Dining Chair **$479ea**;
'Dune Kalo' Pot Large **$199** in Sand; 'Hazel' Coupe Glass Set of 2 **$39** in Olive; 'Xena' Footed Tray **$119**; 'Anthea' Vase **$181** in Chalk



‘Sicily’ Outdoor 3-Seater Lounge (W224 x H70 x D83cm) **$2799**; ‘Sicily’ Outdoor 2-Seater Lounge (W155 x H70 x D83cm) **$1999** (not shown); ‘Sicily’ Outdoor Armchair (W86 x H70 x D83cm) **$1299ea**; ‘Sicily’ Outdoor Coffee Table (W130 x H32 x D73cm) **$899**; ‘Anthea’ Vase **$181** in Terracotta; Kas ‘Luana’ Outdoor Cushion (50 x 50cm) **$59** in Grey; Zaab ‘Torquay’ Plain Outdoor Cushion (50 x 50cm) **$49** in Black; ‘Anwar’ Lantern Small **$83**; ‘Hadley’ Pebble Tray **$159**; Visionary Living ‘Grace’ Outdoor Rug (200 x 290cm) **$499** in Stone.

CLASSIC ELEGANCE

Escape to the Mediterranean with upholstered cushions and teak timber framing

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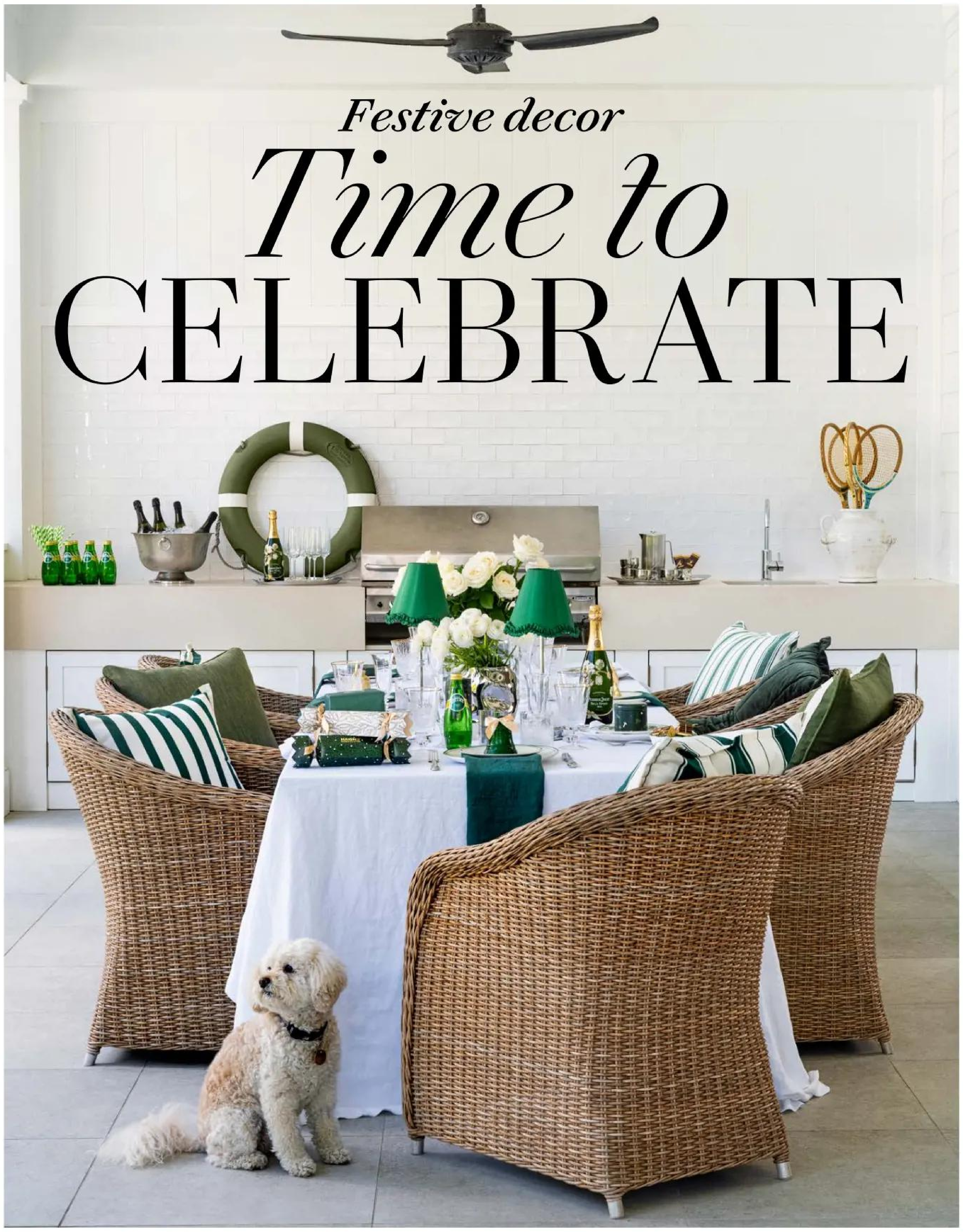
DECORATING IDEAS AND STYLISH BUYS FOR YOUR HOME

PHOTOGRAPHY BRIGID ARNOTT

TIME TO CELEBRATE
PAGE 60
→

Festive decor

Time to CELEBRATE



With the festive season just around the corner, it's time to stock up on decorations and chocolates for the table

STYLING NONCI NYONI | PHOTOGRAPHY BRIGID ARNOTT

This page For similar **chairs**, try 'Martinique' armchairs, $379 each, Early Settler. **Cushions, clockwise from left Cushion cover** in Amore Stripe Forest, $149/50cm x 50cm, Basil Bangs. Rich green **cushion,** $320/55cm x 55cm, and classic green striped **cushion,** $260/55cm x 55cm, both Highgate House. 'Elm' **cushion,** Country Road (discontinued). Green ivory border **cushion,** $195, Highgate House. **Cushion cover** in Al Mare Stripe Forest, $149/50cm x 50cm, Basil Bangs. Linen **tablecloth** in Milk, from $145, I Love Linen. **On back counter** For a similar **Champagne bowl,** try Benzer Champagne and punch bowl, $129.95, Victoria's Basement. **In bowl** Perrier-Jouët Grand Brut **Champagne,** $99.99/750ml, Dan Murphy's. Handpicked Sparkling **Cuvée,** $50 each/750ml, Handpicked. **Life ring,** $285, Coastal Vintage. **Wine and bar tray,** $280, Georg Jensen. Grape @Riedel **Champagne flutes,** $65/set of 2, Riedel. For other products, see overleaf. **Opposite, from left** 'The Season' green bow mini **bowl,** $84, No.22 Home. Dark Chocolate **Baubles,** $10.90/120g, Haigh's Chocolates. Vera Wang 'Infinity' **cutlery,** $999/56-piece set, Wedgwood. Dark Chocolate **Bell,** $16.90/90g, Haigh's Chocolates. Casa Domani 'Rosetta Rim' **side plate,** $9.95, Myer. Linen **napkin** in Jade, $55/set of 4, I Love Linen. Hottie 'Archie' **dinner plate,** $99.95/12-piece set, Myer. Georg Jensen 'Bernadotte' **salt and pepper shakers,** $140, David Jones. 'Ainsley' **Champagne glass** (270ml), $71.80/set of 4, Alfresco Emporium. Clear glass **goblet** with gold rim, $129/set of 4, and cut-glass **tumbler,** $120/set of 4, both Luxe and Beau. All other items, as before. **Previous page Bow** in 'Regis' fabric, $55/m, Warwick.

STYLING ASSISTANTS **ANGELEE MURRAY, NIKOLINA SREJIC**

Perrier
HAIGH'S CHOCOLATES

HAIGH'S CHOCOLATES
CHAMPAGNE
PERRIER-JOUËT
BELLE EPOQUE
2014

Chocolates, from left *Dark Chocolate* ***Bell*** *(green) and Milk Chocolate* ***Bell*** *(gold), $16.90 each/90g; Dark Chocolate Baubles* ***Bon Bons*** *(green) and Milk Chocolate Baubles* ***Bon Bons*** *(cream), $23.90 each/175g; Opulent Truffle* ***Gift Box*** *(round green box on plate), $44.90/150g; Dark Chocolate Squares* ***Bundles****, $5.90 each/30g; Milk Chocolate Pistachio and Cherry Nougat* ***Gift Box****, $21.90/190g; Milk Speckles* ***Gift Tin*** *(in background), $18.50/100g, all Haigh's Chocolates.* ***On table, from left*** *Perrier Sparkling Natural* ***Mineral Water****, $10.99/pack of 4, Umall. Emerald green ruffle scallop* ***lamp shades*** *and* ***silver bases****, $239 each, Luxe & Beau. 'Renee' silver* ***vase****, $99.95/small, and 'Dom' glass* ***vase****, $79.95/medium, both Country Road. Perrier-Jouët Belle Epoque Vintage* ***Champagne****, $349.99/750ml, Dan Murphy's. For products in background, see overleaf. All other items, as before.*

Top left *Hottie 'Archie'* ***dinner*** *and* ***side plates,*** *$99.95/12-piece set, Myer. Linen* ***napkin*** *in Milk, $55/set of 4, I Love Linen.* ***Top right*** *'Cobra'* ***tray,*** *$380, Georg Jensen. Zenfun* ***coffee cups,*** *$51.82/set of 4, Amazon. 'My Favourite' child's* ***cup*** *1378, $975, Georg Jensen. Premium Dark Chocolate* ***Bars,*** *$7.50 each/50g each, Haigh's Chocolates. 'Bernadotte' French* ***coffee press,*** *$245, Georg Jensen.* ***Bottom right Sun loungers,*** *stylist's own. 'The Sun Lounger'* ***slipcovers*** *in Crew Canyon Green Stripe, $399 each, Business & Pleasure Co. Sun lounger cushion* ***inserts,*** *$599 each, Business & Pleasure Co. 'The Bolster* ***Pillows'****, $129 each/58.5cm x 20cm, Business & Pleasure Co. 'Dual Dash'* ***bath towel,*** *$69, Loop Home. Luxury* ***parasol,*** *$550, Basil Bangs. All other items, as before.*

From left *For a similar drinks trolley, try 'Singapore' sling bar cart, $799, Naturally Cane.* ***Top*** *Striped* ***straws,*** *$11.98, Amazon. Zafferano Italy 'Handy'* ***tumblers,*** *$149/set of 6, Casa e Cucina. 'Ainsley' wine glasses (260ml), $63.80/set of 4, and 'Ainsley'* ***Champagne glasses*** *(270ml), $71.80/set of 4, all Alfresco Emporium. Olive* ***cocktail picks,*** *$125/set of 4, Corey Ashford.* ***Bottom*** *Limited edition Dark Orange Chocolate Frogs Gift Boxes, $28.90 each/195g, and Dark Cherry Chocs Gift Tins, $26.90 each/225g, all Haigh's Chocolates. Gifts wrapped in Christmas Scene* ***Wrapping Paper,*** *$29.99/10m, Amazon. 'Kylix' urn, $150, Provincial Home Living. Vintage* ***tennis racquets,*** *stylist's own. All other items, as before.*

WAX POETIC

From left ***'Westgarth' cut crystal glass candlestick,*** *$29.95, Freedom. 'Bloom' stainless steel floor* ***candlestick,*** *$405/medium, Georg Jensen. 'Hotham' marble* ***candlestick,*** *$79.95/set of 2, Freedom. 'Opus' marble* ***candlestick*** *in Nougat, $149/medium, Saardé. 'Beaded Fountain' brass* ***candlestick*** *in White, $129/large, Black Blaze. 'Loreto' aluminium* ***candlestick*** *in Brass, $80, and 'Carin' glass* ***candlestick,*** *$25, both Provincial Home Living. 'Orb' white onyx* ***candlestick,*** *$129/large, Black Blaze. 'St Piere' glass* ***candlestick,*** *$25, Provincial Home Living. Stoneware* ***candlestick,*** *$14.99, H&M. For similar candles, try taper candles in Sand, $16.90/set of 2, Pepperwhites by Tara Dennis. Red velvet ribbon, $19.95/3m, Bespoke Letterpress.*

Add a candlestick (or ten) as more really is merrier when it comes to candlelight

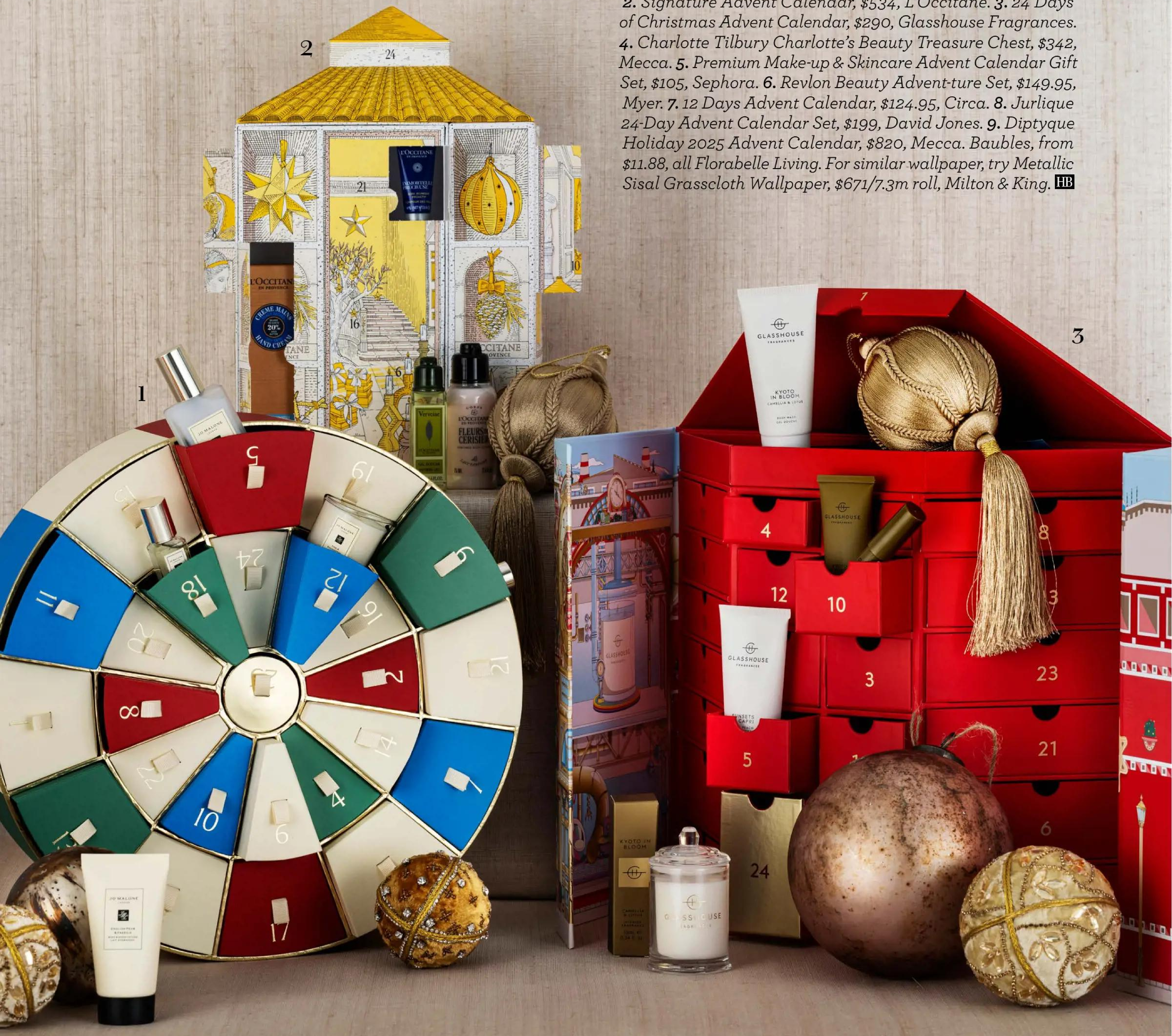
STYLING **ALICE IERACE** | PHOTOGRAPHY **BRIGID ARNOTT**

Oh what fun!

The gift of beauty keeps on giving this Christmas, thanks to petite pampering luxuries in covetable advent calendars

STYLING KATRINA YAXLEY | PHOTOGRAPHY BRIGID ARNOTT

__1.__ Jo Malone London 25-Day Advent Calendar, $895, Myer. __2.__ Signature Advent Calendar, $534, L'Occitane. __3.__ 24 Days of Christmas Advent Calendar, $290, Glasshouse Fragrances. __4.__ Charlotte Tilbury Charlotte's Beauty Treasure Chest, $342, Mecca. __5.__ Premium Make-up & Skincare Advent Calendar Gift Set, $105, Sephora. __6.__ Revlon Beauty Advent-ture Set, $149.95, Myer. __7.__ 12 Days Advent Calendar, $124.95, Circa. __8.__ Jurlique 24-Day Advent Calendar Set, $199, David Jones. __9.__ Diptyque Holiday 2025 Advent Calendar, $820, Mecca. Baubles, from $11.88, all Florabelle Living. For similar wallpaper, try Metallic Sisal Grasscloth Wallpaper, $671/7.3m roll, Milton & King. HB



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SEPHORA
REVLON
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The **home beautiful** BLOCK HOUSE

WE LOVE WATCHING *The Block* BUILDS EACH SEASON… AND THIS YEAR WE GAVE IT A GO, TOO. TOUR OUR VIRTUAL BUILD AT HOMEBEAUTIFUL.COM.AU

PHOTOGRAPHY **LISA COHEN** STYLING **TESS NEWMAN-MORRIS**

Look back at all of our room reveals, then shop the look of the *Home Beautiful* house, inspired by *The Block*

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HARVEY NORMAN® PRESENTS

Season of Christmas

Create effortless celebrations this Christmas with a complete collection of appliances, designed for delicious festive entertaining.

Season's eatings

Fig, berry and golden caramel meringue wreath; white chocolate and ginger star cookies; pink gin and rhubarb cocktail.

harveynorman.com.au/recipes for the full recipe

KitchenAid Artisan® Tilt-Head Stand Mixer in Juniper, 5KSM195, $949.

Built to last, designed to impress.

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Twice the cheer

Stacked dual basket innovation

Cook mains and sides simultaneously with independent temperature and time controls across two stacked dual baskets. From juicy vegetables up top to succulent roasts below, everything's ready to serve together, perfectly cooked.

Customisable cooking space

Boasting a clever vertical layout, this air fryer gives you the capacity of two baskets while taking up nearly half the bench space of a traditional side-by-side design. And it still comes with the built-in flexibility of six preset options and 12 different ways to cook.

200°C
20
PHILIPS
RapidAir

SyncFinish for expert timing

Philips' RapidAir technology circulates heat evenly for crisp, golden results with up to 90 per cent less fat than deep frying. SyncFinish ensures both baskets complete their cook at the same time, taking the guesswork out of juggling festive dishes. Throw in handy presets, a convenient viewing window, automatic shake reminders and easy-clean, dishwasher safe baskets, and you've got stress-free timing for every Christmas feast.

Philips 4000 Series Stacked Dual Basket Air Fryer, NA462/70, $449.
Cook two dishes at once with stacked baskets, smart tech and a compact design.

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180
200
PHILIPS
RapidAir Technology

Season's eatings

Honey candied carrots; gruyère and sweet potato stacks; roasted asparagus with lemon butter and chives; rosè and white nectarine sangria.

harveynorman.com.au/recipes for the full recipe

MALIBU FARM Cookbook
WINTER IN TUSCANY
RICHMOND DELUXE
19:20
belling

Season's eatings

Turkey breast stuffed with sage and pancetta; cranberry glazed ham; duck fat potatoes; crispy parmesan brussels sprouts; grilled lobster tails; whole roast jewel pumpkin; Bellini.

harveynorman.com.au/recipes for the full recipe

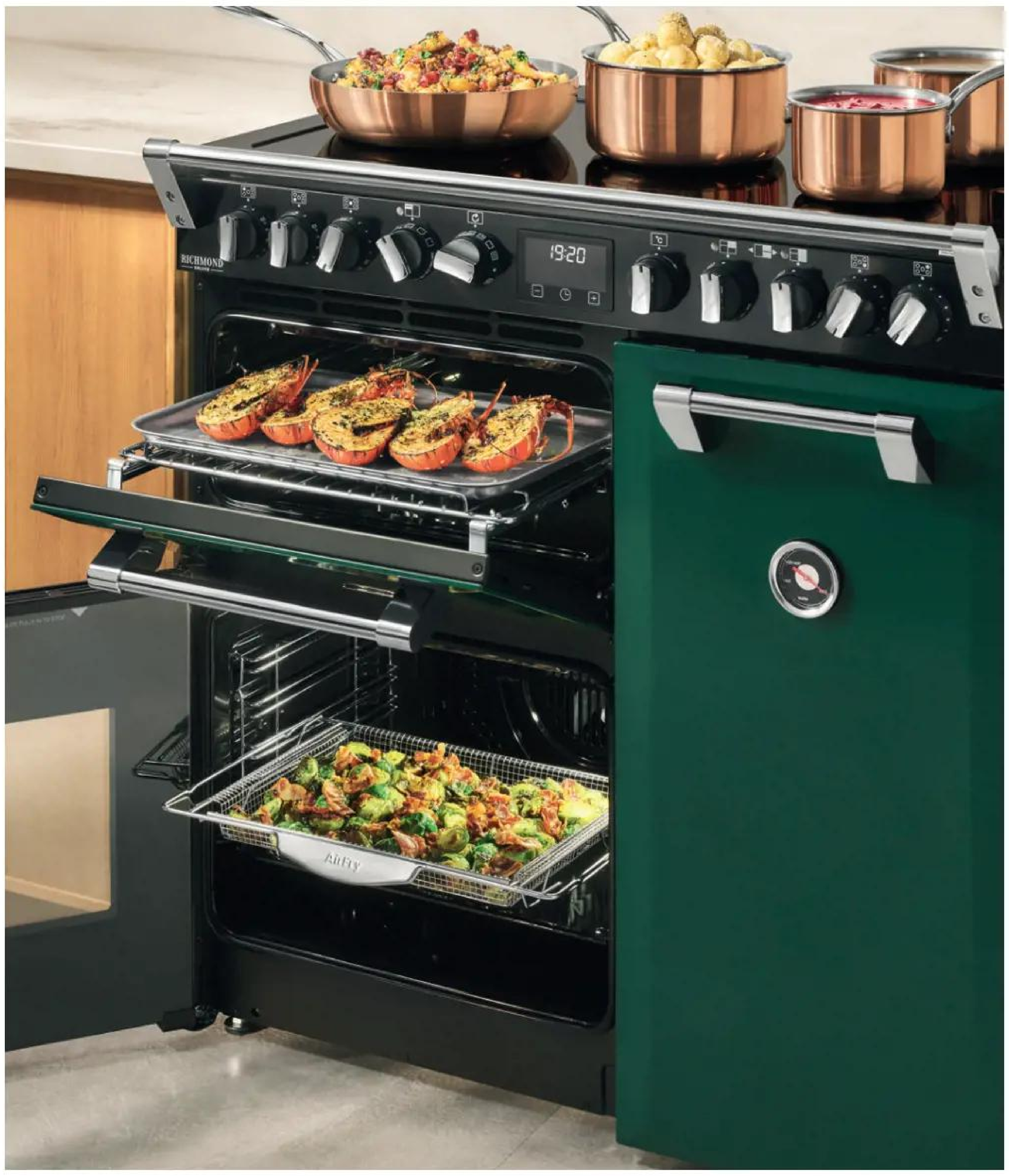
Space for the season

Timeless luxury design

With its elegant farmhouse-inspired look and deep racing green finish, the Colour Boutique Richmond Deluxe 90cm Induction Range Cooker brings a sense of occasion to your kitchen. Classic styling meets advanced cooking technology, creating a durable, high-performing centrepiece built for family feasts and festive entertaining.

Powerful induction cooktop

Enjoy fast, precise meal-prep on a five-zone induction cooktop designed for everyday convenience. Flexible bridgeable zones handle larger pans with ease, while handy presets, auto heat-up and a built-in timer keep everything on track.



Enhanced cooking flexibility

With three spacious ovens and 18 versatile functions (including Air Fry and Steam Assist), this range makes it easy to serve up multiple dishes at once. The clever PROFLEX™ Splitter transforms the tall oven into two independent cooking zones, perfect for juggling sides, mains and desserts. Whether you're preparing Christmas dinner or weeknight meals, enjoy flexibility and consistently impressive results.

Belling Colour Boutique Richmond Deluxe 90cm Induction Range Cooker in British Racing Green, BRDX90INDBRG, $8999.
A statement range cooker that blends timeless design with modern features.

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Celebrations made effortless

Easy weigh scales and cleaning

Built-in digital scales let you measure ingredients directly into the bowl or on the tray, with no extra gadgets. Afterwards, the clean preset and dishwasher-safe parts make holiday clean-up a breeze.

Intuitive OneTouch™ Presets

Six smart presets take all the guesswork out of your prep work. Chop, mince, puree, dough, blend and ice crush are all done with a single tap. It's the perfect kitchen assistant for those times when you want to juggle sides, sauces and sweets with ease.

KENWOOD
00:00

Express Serve™ Slicing

Slice and grate directly into your serving dish, pan or storage container with the clever Express Serve™ attachment. With a reversible 4mm slicing and grating disc, the Express Serve™ comes with an extension that makes it suitable to use with a wide range of pots, platters or jars. Prepare salads and layered dishes, or grate entire blocks of cheese in moments with this super-efficient feature.

Kenwood MultiPro OneTouch™ Food Processor, FDM73480SS, $399.
From weighing to slicing, enjoy effortless, all-in-one prep with smart presets.

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MULTIPRO
ONETOUCH
Dough
Puree
Mix
Ice Crush
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KENWOOD

Season's eatings

Zucchini and pea tarts with seared scallops; beet, radish, and blood orange salad with white bean puree; paired with a crisp Chardonnay.

harveynorman.com.au/recipes for the full recipe

Hisense
Dual Zone
Hisense
Dual Zone
Hisense

Season's eatings

Jewelled panna cotta with rose petals and pistachios; pink gin French 75; spiced pear mule, complete with Christmas wine pairings.

harveynorman.com.au/recipes for the full recipe

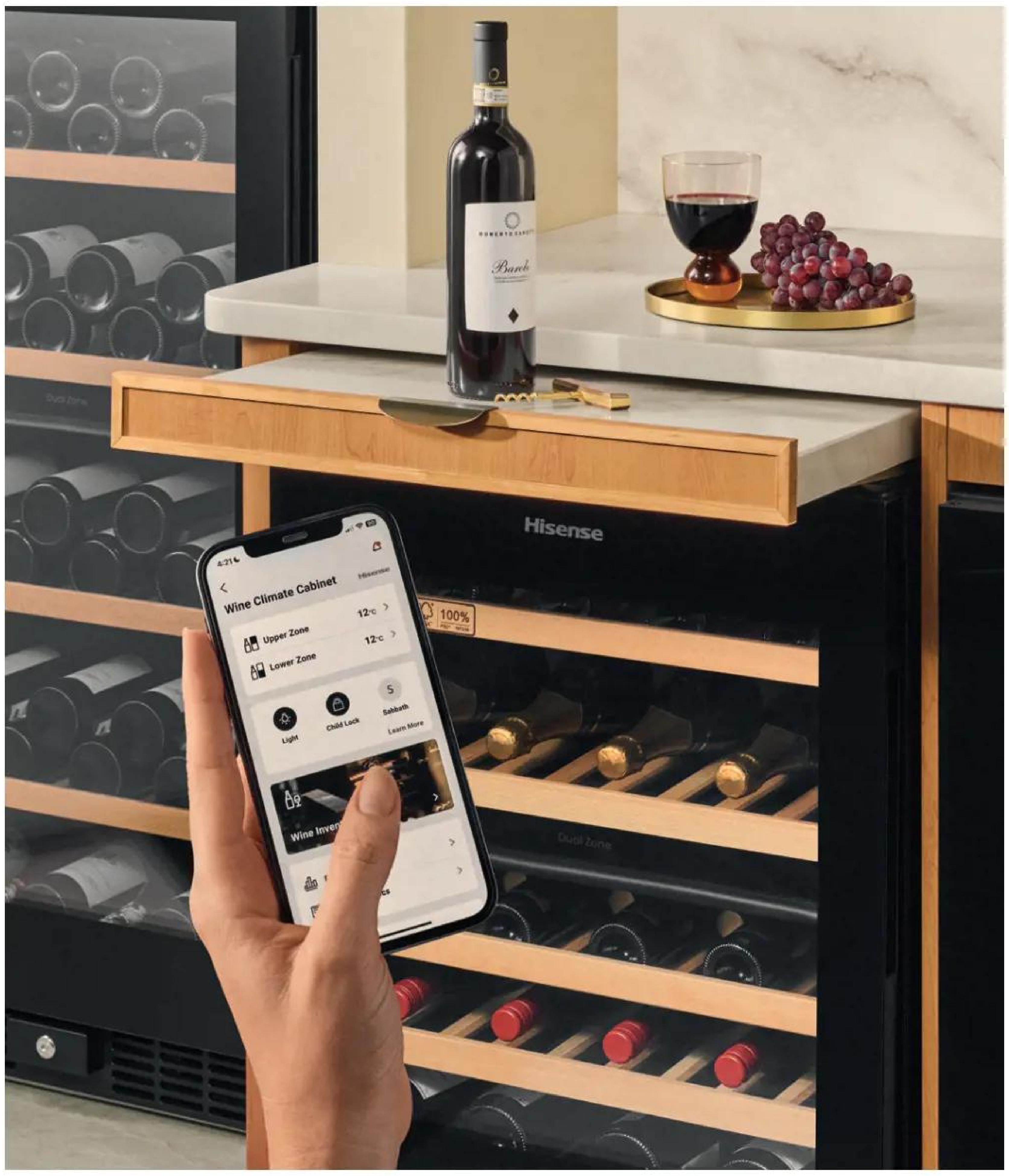
Uncork the moment

Dual temperature zones

Keep reds and whites at their best with independent zones. Whether it's the tall 108-bottle cellar for serious collectors, the 46-bottle option for compact spaces or the 140-can beverage cooler, you'll always have the right drink at the right temperature.

Tri-glazed UV protection

Protect your collection from both light and heat with these cutting-edge, triple-layered glass doors. Designed to block harmful UV rays while maintaining a stable climate, they ensure your wines mature gracefully and your chilled drinks stay crisp and refreshing.



Smart Wi-Fi connectivity

Take the guesswork out of storing and serving drinks with built-in Wi-Fi control via the Hisense ConnectLife app*. From your phone, you can check and adjust temperatures, switch between modes and even receive alerts if the door is left open. In addition, the Wine Library feature means you can scan your wine labels to discover tasting notes, the history of each vintage and even more useful information.

Hisense 108 Bottle Black Glass Wine Cabinet, HRWC108B, $1999.

Hisense 46 Bottle Wine Cellar, HRWC46B, $1499.

Hisense 140 Can Beverage Cooler HRBC137, $1399.

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BEAUTIFUL HOMES

THE STORIES, STYLE AND LOVE THAT MAKE A HOME BEAUTIFUL

PHOTOGRAPHY LEON SCHOOTS

RISING STAR
PAGE 82 →

RISING STAR

Serene pastoral scenes stretch as far as the eye can see in this family home, thanks to grand windows and a vaulted ceiling that reaches for the stars

STORY **BRITTANY SMITH** | STYLING **BELLE HEMMING** | PHOTOGRAPHY **LEON SCHOOTS**

All wrapped up *Christmas and Santa Claus are synonymous in Kirsten and Rhys' household. As such, the respective model and AFL ruckman notice exclusively nice list behaviour from their young children in the months leading up to the day. And where better to await a visit from Saint Nick than a daybed? The custom design by Studio Hallihan stretches across the length of the vast window, taking in views that stretch to the horizon. "Anchoring these views... was our core design objective," says Studio Hallihan principal and interior designer, Tanya Love-Hallihan, who adds that they create an effect like a large artwork of slow-moving colour.* >

ARTWORK 'DOWN ALONG THE CREEK' BY EMMA ITZSTEIN STYLING ASSISTANT **VIVIEN HEMMING**

A country Christmas, in a home built for their family's evolution, was the dream for Kirsten and Rhys Stanley. The respective fashion model and Geelong Cats player missed out on several farms before finding this regional Victorian property, where they live with their children Jagger, seven, Sloane, five, and Hudson, two. The vacant site opened them up to a world of new build possibilities but it was the vistas of surrounding plains and bays that sealed the deal. "We drove to the top of the hill and got a glimpse of the view… That was enough for us," says Kirsten.

Every part of the build process was inspired by the locale, from the open design of the family home to the material palette. And with Tanya Love-Hallihan, principal of Studio Hallihan, at the helm, this organic beauty took shape.

After a delay due to Covid, construction began in February 2022, aided by the couple's clear vision. They imposed a strict "no white walls" rule, with a European take on farmhouse style that infused the space with warmth. Of the must-haves, Kirsten lists "large windows, open-plan kitchen for entertaining and hardy materials to handle a busy family". A generously sized north-facing window, with a built-in day bed across the base, maximises views underneath a vaulted ceiling that stretches up to 6.4 metres.

Those soaring heights certainly come in handy at Christmastime, allowing for a tall tree and strategic placement of baubles. "The kids seem to take as many decorations off as they put on, especially Huddi, so we need to put the majority of them up high and out of reach," admits Kirsten. This year will ring in their second Christmas in the home, where festivities begin with a family outing. "We have a few local Christmas tree growers so we go and cut down a tree with the kids," shares Kirsten, who adds that this adventure creates memories while enhancing the indoor-outdoor connection they've fostered in the home. "The smell of a natural tree adds a nice touch to the festive season." While the family didn't have a chance to do the annual hunt for a real tree at the time of *Home Beautiful*'s visit, it's still a special part of their traditions.

The couple prefer to keep their decorations fairly traditional but they're not adverse to trends. An oversized bow graced their front door last year (tied by Rhys who has an unexpected knack for this task), and the children each paint a bauble for the tree every year. While Kirsten says they often spend Christmas Day at her family's holiday home, they still love to entertain in the summer months. Guests spread out in the spacious kitchen, living and dining area, starting off with platters on the island bench before moving on to "dinner around the dining table and wines in front of the fireplace".

The flexibility of the space is something that Kirsten and Rhys appreciate most. The home's design suits them in this season of life but will also grow with them, nurturing all the stages to come. This is especially true during the holidays. For now, the focus is on an unbridled excitement for Santa Claus, while for Kirsten the greatest gift is simple: "The pure joy the kids experience and seeing it written all over their faces." HB ***For more stunning homes, visit www.homebeautiful.com.au.***

Living *Warm neutrals create a cosy, welcoming environment, such as walls finished in Porter's Paints Icelandic Stone and 'Solle' floorboards, an engineered European oak from George Fethers & Co. A glittering array of golden ornaments surround Kirsten, Rhys, Jagger, Sloane and Hudson (pictured). The 'Noelle' LED Christmas tree is paired with gold 'Noelle' baubles and drop baubles, in a vintage finish, all from Provincial Home Living, as well as an assortment of 'Lucia' decorations from Mediterranean Markets.* **>**

WE LOVE… *a natural selection*

An organic palette grounds the home and deepens the connection between the interior and exterior. "Our materials were selected for their tactile qualities, natural imperfections and resilience," says Tanya. Timber beams from Simply Oregon highlight the vaulted ceiling, while a dramatically veined Calacatta Viola marble from Artedomus graces the kitchen island and benchtops. Even the timber coffee table from MCM House is topped with a generous slab of travertine. This palette of natural materials is at once rustic and luxe, tactile and elegant.

Living An earthy colour palette complements the rural appeal, including the olive green Provincial Home Living sofa, topped with ochre-toned cushions and a 'Matteo' wool and silk lumbar cushion from L&M Home. "Stone washed linen, heavy woollen textures and classic stripes provide a timeless design and textures that sit comfortably in the rural property," says Tanya of the soft furnishings. Beyond the living room, the MCM House 'Galleria' armless dining chairs in Caramel Rattan maximise views of rolling hills. A large artwork by Emma Itzstein, titled 'Down Along The Creek', brings the bushland beauty of the surrounds to the open-plan area. >

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This page 1. *Rhys and Sloane cosy up.* ***2.*** *It's an all-star cast, with the Provincial Home Living 'Noelle' star mug and star-shaped biscuits arranged on the Robert Gordon 'Nest' oval platter.* ***3.*** *Barama 'Holly' wrapping paper in Creme, Red and Gold on White hides the goods from Hudson.* ***4.*** *Brass candlesticks (stylist's own) and Robert Gordon ceramic Christmas trees with gold stars line the table.* ***5.*** *Wicka's 'Twist Grande' grapevine wreath is simply elegant.* ***6.*** *The tree twinkles thanks to Kirsten and Jagger.* ***7.*** *Sloane cradles a present adorned with Barama's jute and 'Cherry Blossom' ribbons, both in Natural, with a white bow on top.* ***8.*** *Kirsten prefers a palette of greens and glimmering golds.* ***Living*** *A 'Tradition' pendant light from Lighterior (opposite) and custom sconce from Lillian Jean Ceramics add ambience to the tableau.* **>**

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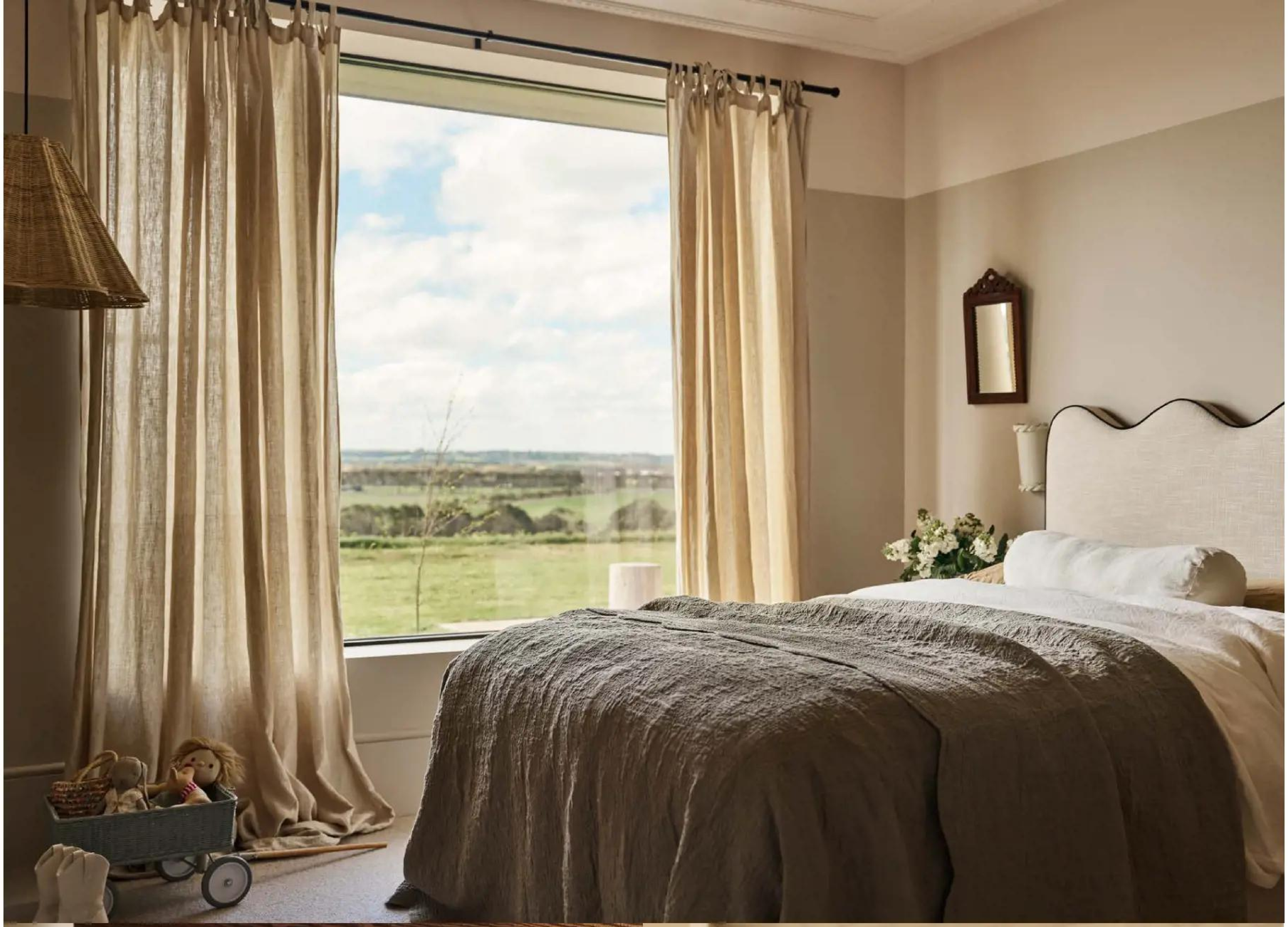
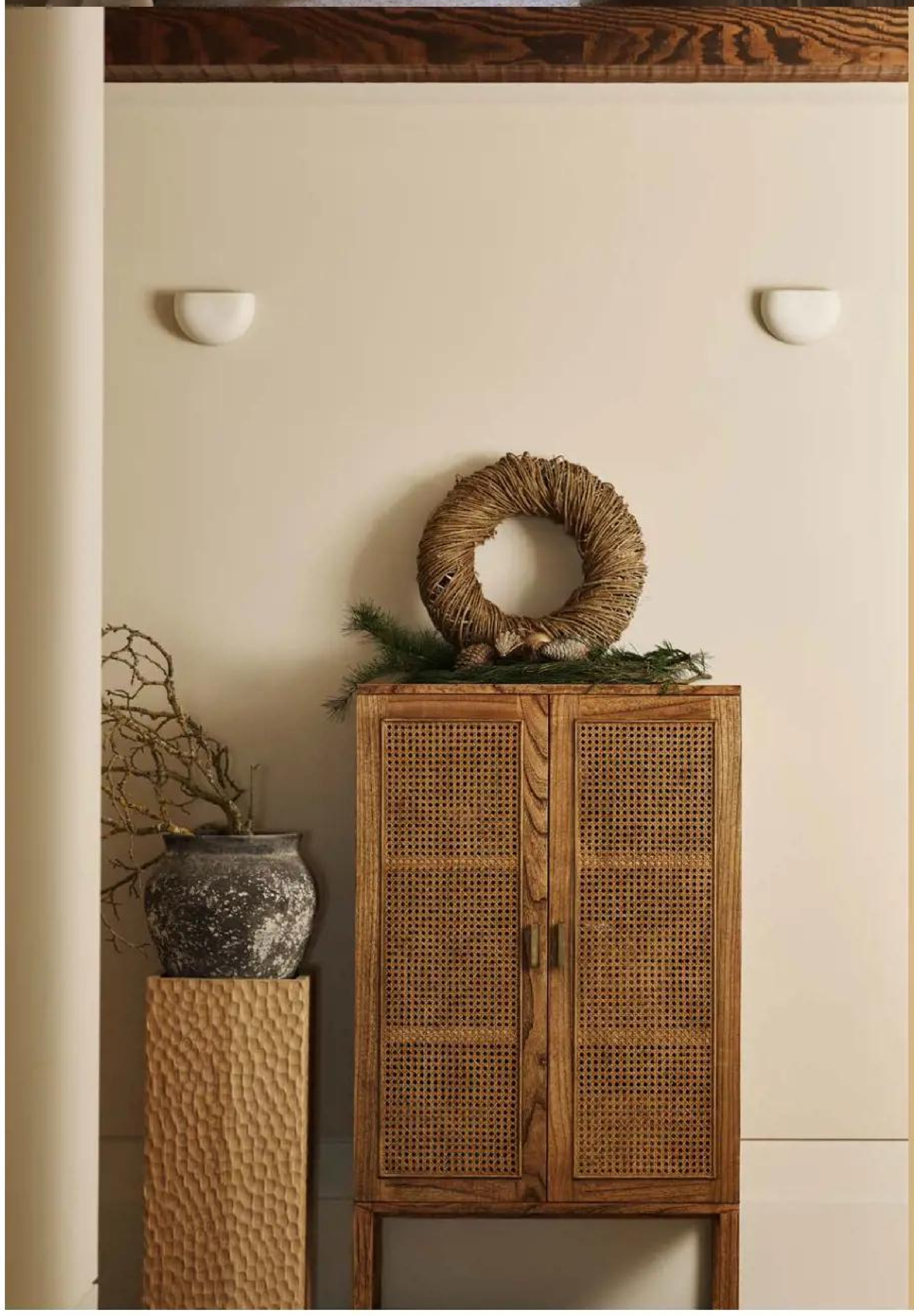
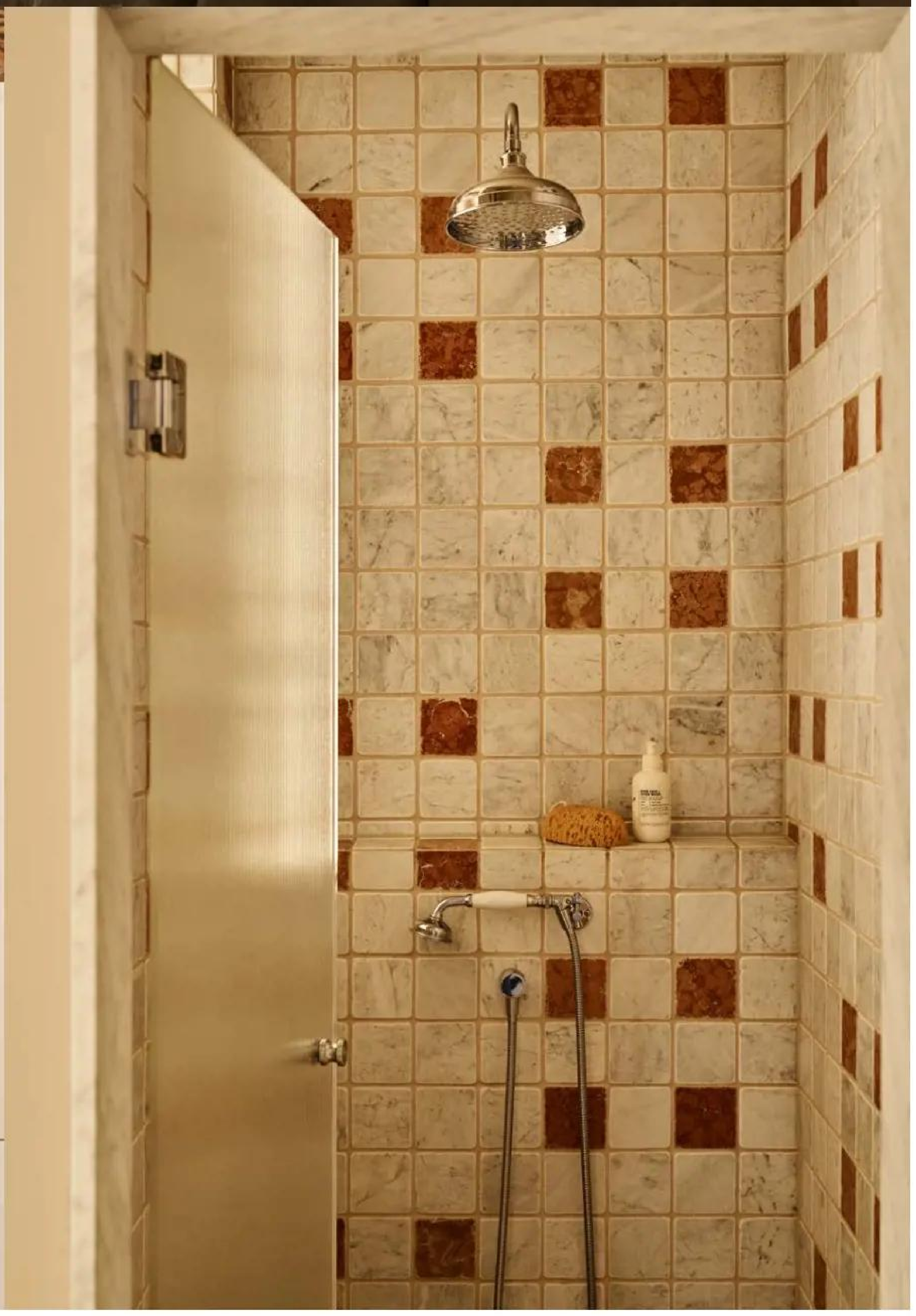
INSIDE STORY
Rhys & Kirsten's home

Who lives here?
Model Kirsten, her husband, AFL ruckman Rhys, and their three children, Jagger, seven, Sloane, five, and Hudson, two.
What do you love most in the home?
Kirsten: "The open-plan living space where we can all enjoy spending time together as a family. We love watching the kids run around in that room."
What's on your Christmas menu?
"Christmas ham, prawns, crayfish (if we're in WA), homemade gingerbread houses and pavlova."
Favourite Christmas traditions?
"Santa sacks around the fireplace, the kids making milk and a plate full of carrots for Santa and the reindeer, and our glazed Christmas ham."

Dining *The dining table feels abundant, draped in L&M Home's 'Terrace' tablecloth in Oatmeal (this page). This creates a neutral base for an assortment of festive cheer (opposite). A mix of Robert Gordon 'Haven Heart' tumblers and the family's own wine glasses are ready for tipples. Each place setting features a set of Robert Gordon 'Nest' plates beside 'Nolan' cutlery in Soft Gold from Country Road. L&M Home's 'Riviera' striped napkins in Jade are neatly clasped in 'Haven' napkin rings from Country Road.* >

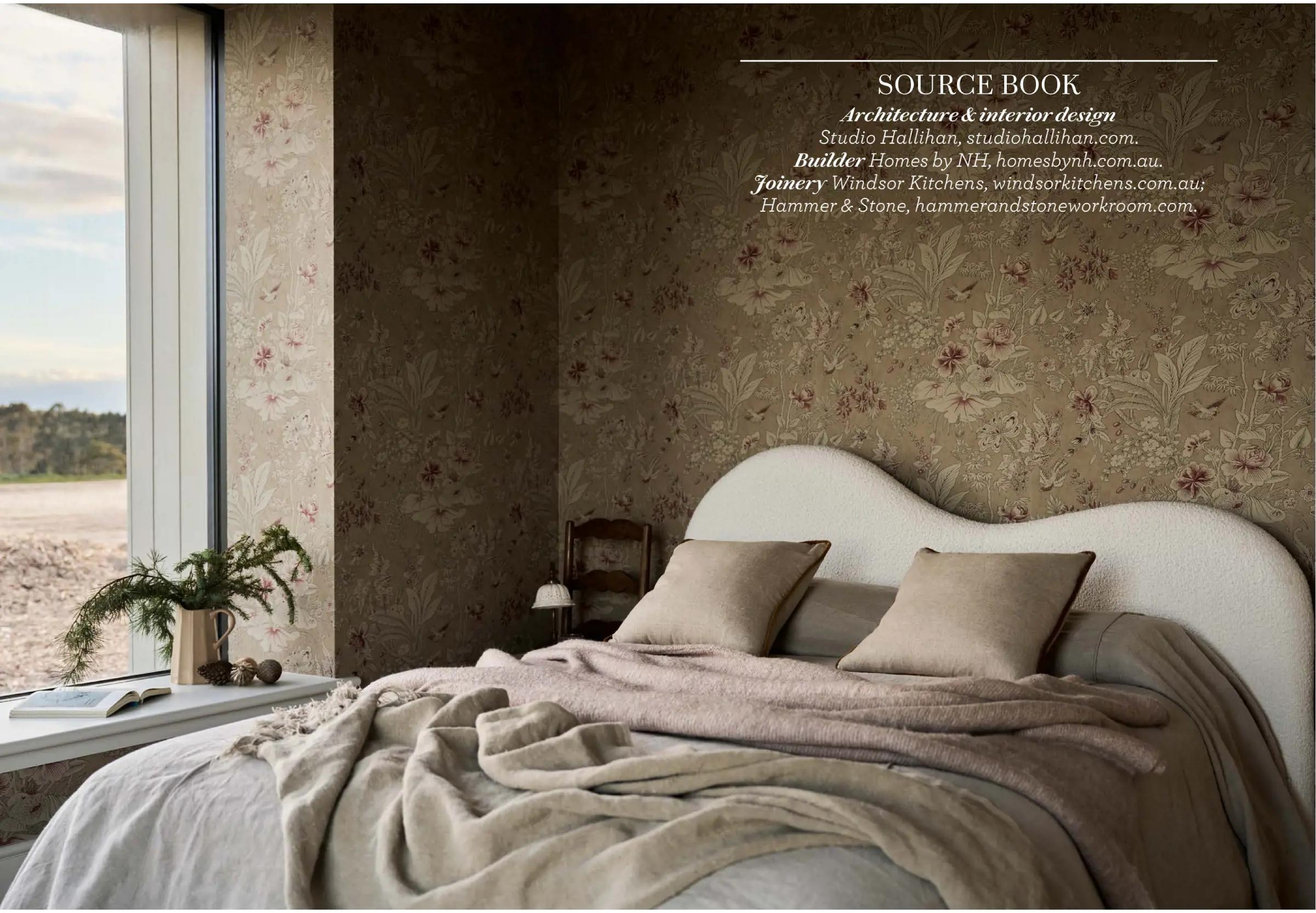






Sloane's bedroom *The 'Beatrix' bedhead from McMullin ensures Sloane will nestle all snug in her bed (this page, top). Society of Wanderers' linen curtains softly filter sunlight on walls finished in Porter's Paints Moonstone, with a band of Himalayan Salt above. Dunlin's 'Etna' rattan pendant adds texture.* ***Hallway*** *Tactile touches abound with a custom plinth from Friday Crafted and the family's console table (this page, bottom left).* ***Main bathroom*** *Subtle variations in the 'Rosso' mosaic tumbled tiles from Gather Co add movement beside Astra Walker tapware (this page & opposite).* **>**

> “CREATING A HOME WITH VIEWS WAS ALWAYS PART OF THE PLAN. WE THINK ABOUT HOW LUCKY WE ARE EVERY DAY” **KIRSTEN**



SOURCE BOOK

Architecture & interior design *Studio Hallihan, studiohallihan.com.*
Builder *Homes by NH, homesbynh.com.au.*
Joinery *Windsor Kitchens, windsorkitchens.com.au; Hammer & Stone, hammerandstoneworkroom.com.*

ARTWORK (OPPOSITE) **JESSIE HARTWIG-BOUTKAN**

Guest bedroom *Soft florals envelop the guest bedroom thanks to the Thibaut ‘Rosalind’ wallpaper in Beige (this page). These warm tones are complemented by luscious layers of linen, including the ‘Aspen’ blanket in Natural from In The Sac and ‘Etro’ cushions in Toffee from L&M Home.* ***Jagger’s bedroom*** *It’s a blue Christmas thanks to walls in Porter’s Paints Newport Blue (opposite), complete with built-in niches for beloved books. The ‘Luella’ bedhead from Heatherly Design adds a classic touch, paired with the ‘Sumba’ wall light by Faro Lab from Lighting Collective. But the most exciting feature is the presents, all wrapped and stacked on the bedside table.*

JOLLY BUSY

Co-founder of homewares brand In The Roundhouse, Alyce Tran, invites us inside her contemporary Sydney terrace as she prepares for her busiest time of year

STORY REBECCA HOOTON | STYLING OLGA LEWIS | PHOTOGRAPHY BRIGID ARNOTT

INSIDE STORY
Alyce's home

Who lives here? *Alyce Tran, co-founder of In The Roundhouse and brand strategist at LTK Australia.*
What do you love most about it? *"I like how there are clearly defined zones, so if I'm working from home or in my bedroom I feel away from the rest of the house."*
What are your go-to festive table colours? *"I tend to stick with pinks and greens but I'm loving rich bold colours at the moment. I'm styling with our latest collections."*
How do you help guests feel instantly comfortable? *"Hand them a drink and give them something to do so they're not awkwardly hovering while I run around."*

Modern merriment *In a stylish inner-eastern Sydney suburb, Alyce Tran's black-and-white terrace facade is as chic as she is (opposite). Inside, her playful festive style comes to life, perfectly complementing a soft Bart Celestino artwork in pale pink. The table features In The Roundhouse's Romeo + Jules collaboration – dinner plates, side plates and a coffee duo set – mixed with other favourites from the homewares and dinnerware brand. >*

STYLING ASSISTANT **AMY MORRISON** CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS **FLORABELLE LIVING**

food is our
love language

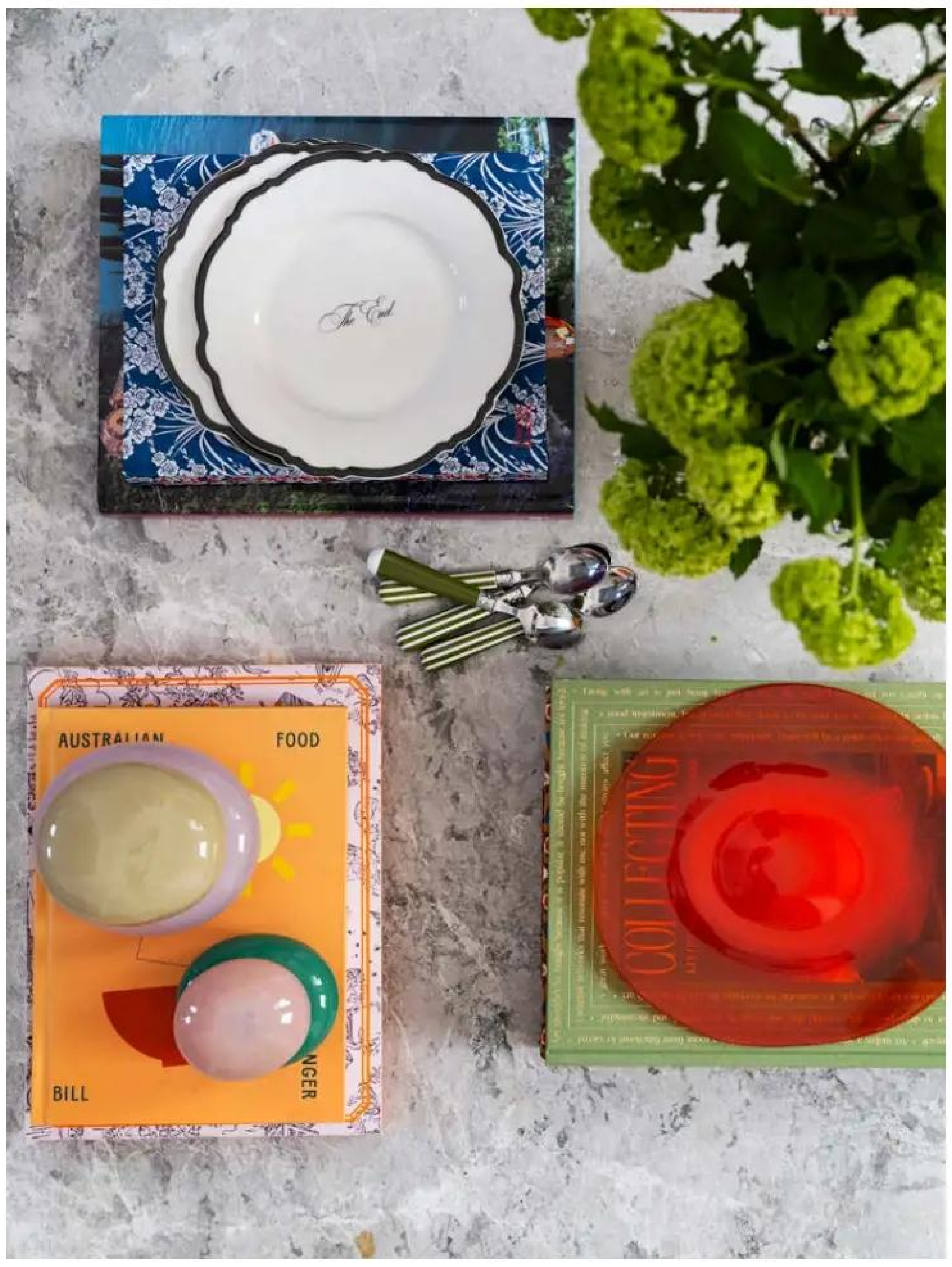
When I get on a call with Alyce Tran, one of the founding forces behind In The Roundhouse, it's clear her work ethic is second to none. Fresh off an overseas trip, she's back home in Australia typing away while we chat. The business she helped build rarely slows down – least of all at Christmas.

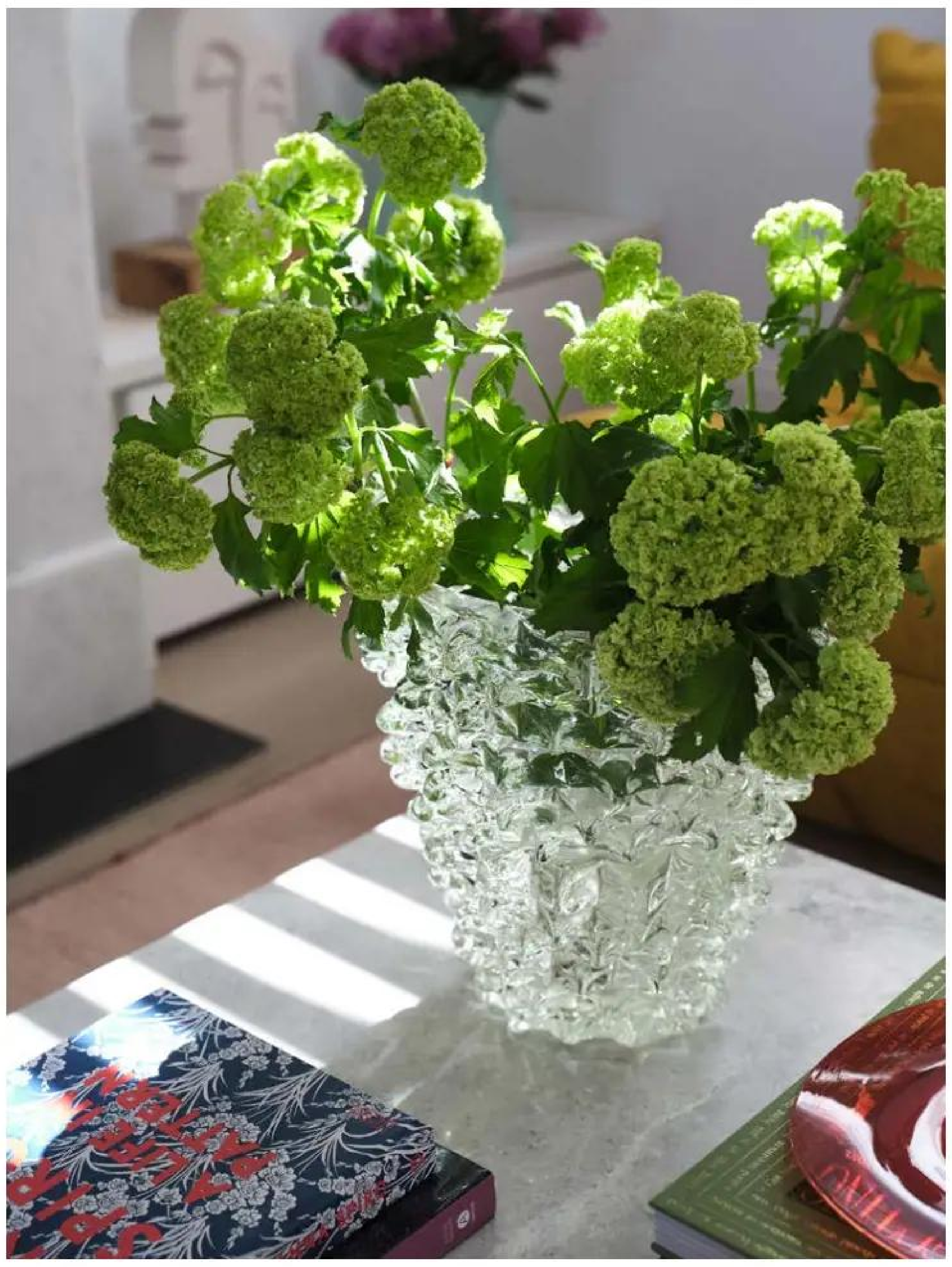
Some might say hustle is Alyce's holiday tradition. "I've grown up in a household where the Christmas period has always been really busy for my family," she shares. "My parents had a strawberry farm, and summer is strawberry season so it's a really busy time. I think one year my mum moved Christmas for our entire extended family. She was like, 'We're going to work on Christmas Day 'cause we have to, and we will just move the day.'"

That pragmatic streak extended to Alyce and her home search. "I was in a small LA terrace before this and I just wanted to have more space, more light," she explains. It was mid-2021, and the pandemic had encouraged her to slow down, much like it did for all of us. "Spending time at home became more of an emphasis because prior to this I was just working like a crazy person."

Initially, Alyce considered properties needing renovations. "I was very seriously thinking about going down that route." But hearing friends' warnings about the challenges of building, she decided against it. Then she found an idyllic turnkey residence.

Dining *In the playfully polished dining space (this page & opposite), a custom-made Lucy Wheen table is paired with McMullin 'Henrietta' chairs while a pink petal-shaped Murano glass chandelier adds a romantic glow. When it comes to decorating, Alyce mixes fun festive touches with fresh florals from the markets. "If you don't know what you're doing with flower arrangements, like me, just keep to block colours in one type," she suggests. Steering away from traditional Christmas tones, Alyce prefers to play off what's new and inspiring at In The Roundhouse, such as their latest Romeo + Jules collaboration (pictured). >*





Dining *The Christmas tree is a cheerful burst of colour next to the dining table (this page, top left & right), adorned with multi-hued decorations, fruit-like baubles and statement sparkling prawns. All are from wholesaler Florabelle Living, with similar finds available at Bonnie & Neil and Bespoke Letterpress.* ***Living*** *When guests visit, Alyce's living room (this page, bottom & opposite) is where they naturally gather. It's a playful mix of collected pieces and curated colour. A bright yellow Ligne Roset 'Togo' loveseat anchors the space, while soft pink accents – like in the Rick Carlino artwork above the fireplace – add a gentle, feminine touch. The coffee table is styled with colourful books and fresh blooms, alongside In The Roundhouse's 'The End' side plates and green and striped spoons (this page, bottom left), blending function with effortless style.*

OTHER ARTWORKS **ARTISTS UNKNOWN**

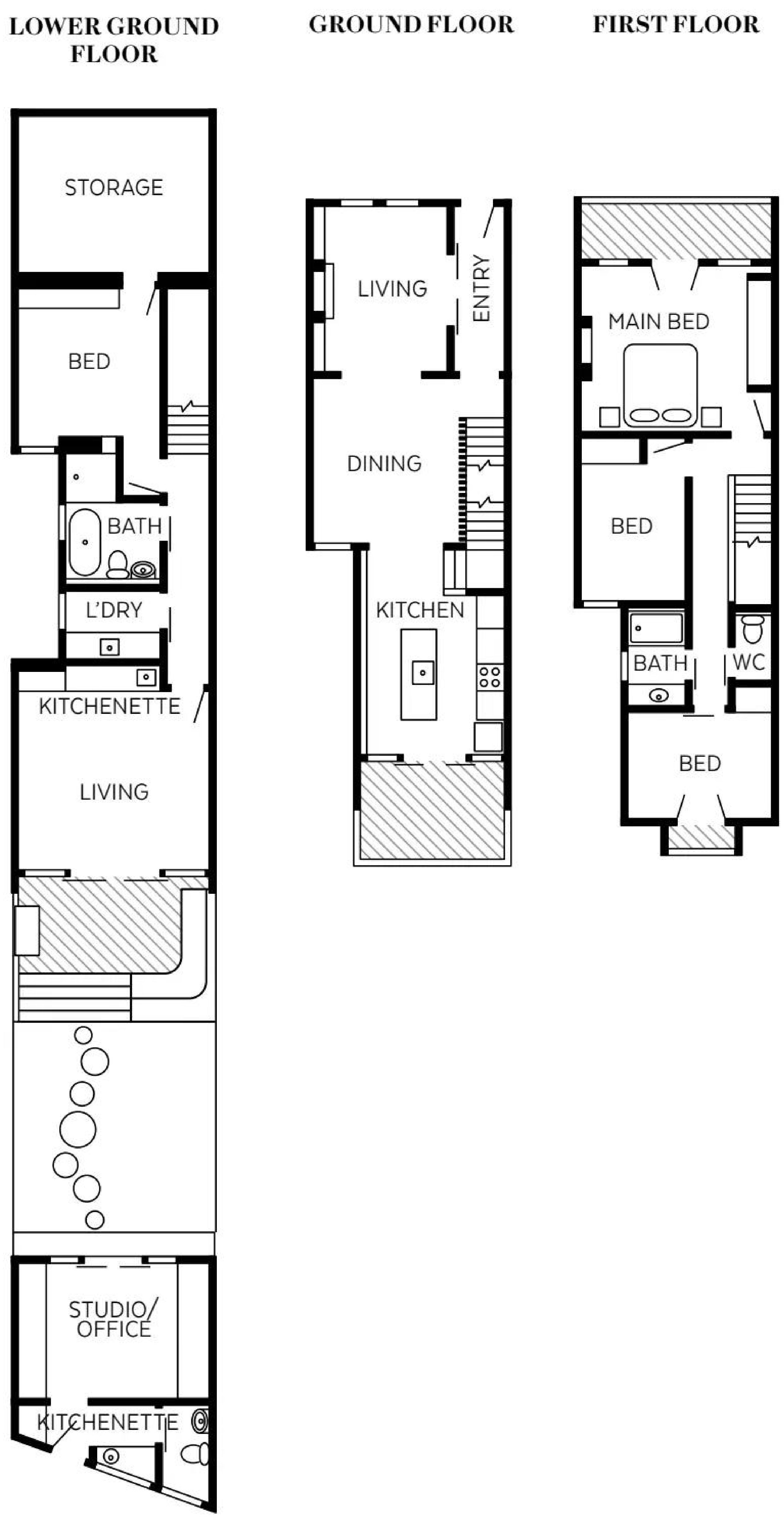
“I LIKE BUYING PIECES OF FURNITURE THAT CAN WORK IN MULTIPLE CONTEXTS. IF I MOVE DOWN THE LINE, CAN IT GO IN ANOTHER CORNER?” **ALYCE**

A ROOM OF HER OWN
The Life Eclectic
Home

WE LOVE... *fashion as decor*

It's fun when fashion finds its way into interiors, and for style devotee Alyce, it feels only fitting. Her bed is dressed with 'Remnants of Chanel' cushions from The Bespoke Linen Co., handcrafted by textile artist Melise Smith using the iconic brand's signature tweeds. Each limited-edition piece gives new life to Chanel's past collections. Visit thebespokelinen.co.

FLOOR PLAN


LOWER GROUND FLOOR
GROUND FLOOR
FIRST FLOOR
STORAGE
BED
BATH
L'DRY
KITCHENETTE
LIVING
STUDIO/ OFFICE
KITCHENETTE
LIVING
ENTRY
DINING
KITCHEN
MAIN BED
BED
BATH
WC
BED

***Wardrobe** In Alyce's wardrobe (this page, top), Chanel, Fendi and Loewe bags sit like stylish friends beside Bottega Veneta sunglasses and heels that would make any fashion lover weak at the knees. **Bathroom** Simplicity meets luxury in the bathroom (this page, bottom) with a mirrored cabinet, marble vanity and white finger tiles. A Loewe product and fresh florals elevate the space. **Bedroom** In one of the bedrooms (opposite), soft lilac tones create a serene retreat. The 'Hatepe' photographic artwork by Derek Henderson features a captivating sea of hydrangea heads, its hue echoed in the bed cover from The Bespoke Linen Co. A Hay bedside lamp and an Aphrodite statue from Mercer & Lewis sit alongside other collected pieces, adding sculptural elegance and texture. >*

Office *Alyce's light-filled office (this page) is a calming space where work and style go hand in hand. "I spend about a day a week on In The Roundhouse. Some is spent at home, on small shoots or at our warehouses," she says.* ***Terrace*** *Outside, the dining table is laid for summer with In The Roundhouse's wicker dining set, matching glassware and beige-and-white cutlery.*

Located in a vibrant inner-Sydney suburb, it was exactly where and what Alyce realised she wanted. "I thought, 'Okay, well everything is kind of done.'" It offered an elegant foundation and she's since added her own touch through furnishings. "It wasn't like everything was bought for this house," she explains. "There were just some things from Jardan, others I've had for a long time."

Her space displays an intuitive way with colour, though Alyce downplays any styling talent. "When I look at the interiors of houses that have been done by someone, I don't think by any stretch of the imagination my house is styled," she says. "It has things in it, versus someone who's had their house styled by Smac Studio or Tamsin Johnson or Phoebe Nicol – someone with training in this space."

As 2025 draws to a close, her workdays are ramping up with new In The Roundhouse releases that aren't overtly festive but embrace the silly season's hues. "Every colour scheme will be covered," she shares. "We have traditional colourways, like green and white, red and white. Then we have things that are more Northern Hemisphere festive vibes, like those darker, richer colours."

The tastemaker may have many plates spinning, but at home she's low-key. Her favourite spot to relax? "I very rarely go downstairs," she says. "I just watch TV in my bed." And when the retail rush is over, she'll be ready for a break. "It's a sense of relief," she says. HB

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’TIS THE SEASON

The home of Kate Waterhouse combines European-style elegance with coastal ease and glistens at Christmas

STORY **CHRIS PEARSON** | STYLING **OLGA LEWIS** | PHOTOGRAPHY **PABLO VEIGA**

STYLING ASSISTANT **AMY MORRISON** PHOTOGRAPHY ASSISTANT **ANNA HAMILTON** HAIR AND MAKEUP **NONI SMITH**
ADDITIONAL COPY **JULIA FAIRLEY** ALL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

Festive flair *The elegant Sydney abode of Kate Waterhouse (pictured, with much-loved Ricky) comes alive in summer, when she and her family decorate their home for Christmas together. Gold sparkling bows and pine garlands, all Adairs, dress the balustrade against walls and trims in Resene Bianca. Near an artwork by Jahnne Pasco-White, 'Inter-giftedness 5', Kate adorns her entrance table from The Vault with tonal reindeer ornaments, next to natural timber Christmas tree decor, all Adairs. Her hat collection (opposite) hangs summer-ready, all year round.* >

Life's a beach throughout the year, not just the summer holidays, for TV presenter and model Kate Waterhouse (of Australia's racing royalty), her husband Luke Ricketson (of one-time Roosters rugby league fame) and their daughters, Sophia, 11, and Grace, nine. A beautiful beach on Sydney's Lower North Shore, with its golden sand, calm waters and majestic fig trees, beckons across the road from their barefoot paradise, where coastal ease flows through each room. The only downside? Tootsies trailing sand across the sublime limestone floors.

Kate and Luke settled on the property in 2021. "The solid structure, incredible light and sense of openness drew us instantly," she says. "And, being so close to the beach, I could instantly imagine it as somewhere for our family to make memories."

But only after some serious help. The kitchen was sequestered, with no connection to the view or living areas. While some parts of the home were open, others were cut off, with an awkward flow between spaces. And the '80s surfaces had seen better days, so Kate called on interior designer Phoebe Nicol to elevate the ordinary to the extraordinary.

"We needed a home that could withstand the chaos of everyday life while still feeling considered," says Kate. "We wanted spaces that flowed seamlessly, with the living areas connected to the outdoors." And the look? "Coastal, yet classic – light, airy and timeless. I wanted it to feel inviting and relaxed, but also elevated, with textures and beautiful natural finishes." Phoebe inverted the floor plan, shifting the living areas and main bedroom suite from the ground floor to the first, "so they could take full advantage of the view. That single move completely transformed the experience of the home," she says. "It was about bringing in light, enhancing flow and giving a sense of ease." The children's bedrooms, bathrooms, laundry and a rumpus room are now on the ground floor.

"For the finishes, we drew inspiration from European interiors, with neutral palettes, textural layering and heritage details," says Phoebe. "Materials were selected for their tactility, beauty and timeless appeal." Sandy-hued 'Ariana' limestone flooring from Teranova is a hero element. "It's a beautiful stone with subtle warmth that lends a sense of luxury without being flashy," says Phoebe. French wash wall finishes lend a soft tactility, while accenting architectural details such as the arches, architraves and skirtings. "They bring depth and subtle texture without overwhelming the space, creating a sun-washed quality that complements the coastal light," says Phoebe.

The designer chose other materials for their ability "to patina and age gracefully". Tonal and soothing, the palette of driftwood, sandy hues and stone echoes the location. "It was important that the home felt calm and cohesive. The restrained colour emphasises form, texture and light," says Phoebe. Similarly, the furnishings celebrate natural materials – linen, leather and seagrass – which "patinate and soften over time".

And while the pool remains a firm favourite for the couple's young daughters in summer, for Kate, a bracing morning ocean swim across the road is "the best way to start the day". HB ***For more stunning homes, visit www.homebeautiful.com.au.***

Living *'Ariana' limestone floor tiles from Teranova are refreshingly cool during summer and sweep into the ground-floor living area, where an iconic 'Clam' armchair from Composition sits on an Armadillo rug. Sophia and Grace decorate the Adairs 'Nordic' LED-lit Christmas tree with a star tree topper and symphony of ornaments, all Adairs, including baubles, glass stars, Santa figurines and tree decorations in Gold and Gingerbread. Kate uses a scalloped Christmas tree skirt to hide the base and jazzes up the hearth with a bold bow, both Adairs.*

INSIDE STORY
Kate & Luke's home

Who lives here? *Model and TV presenter Kate Waterhouse, her husband Luke Ricketson, an ex-Roosters player and insurance company principal, their girls Sophia, 11, and Grace, nine, turtle Waddles and Cobberdog Ricky.*

How are you spending your summer holidays this year? *Kate: "We're dividing our time between Sydney and the Southern Highlands. We love having a mix of beach days then heading to the family farm for a country escape. It gives us the best of both worlds."*

Favourite Christmas rituals? *"The girls love decorating the tree together and making pavlova. We also always watch a Christmas movie on Christmas Eve – it's a tradition we all look forward to."*

What is your Christmas decorating style? *"Classic and timeless, with a hint of sparkle."* >

Dining *Os de Mouton slip-covered oak dining chairs from The Vault skirt the custom table that Phoebe designed for the dining area (this page). For Kate, the lead up to Christmas is all about spending time together. "There's such a sense of joy, family and tradition," she says. "Everything slows down and we focus on being together." An Adairs 'Pine Cashmere' wreath salutes the season, but the celebratory pièce de résistance is Kate's tablescape (opposite). Beginning with a 'Siena' jute table runner and 'Flower' jute placemats as the base, height is added with short and tall 'Ruffle' Christmas trees in Gold, a sculptural 'Paxos' vase, and 'Goldie' taper candles in Lemon held aloft in 'Festive Bow' candle holders, all Adairs. 'Catalina' crockery, gold-rimmed 'Florence' coupés, 'Christmas Tree' wine glasses and a 'Laguna' footed bowl, also all from Adairs, complete the look.* **>**

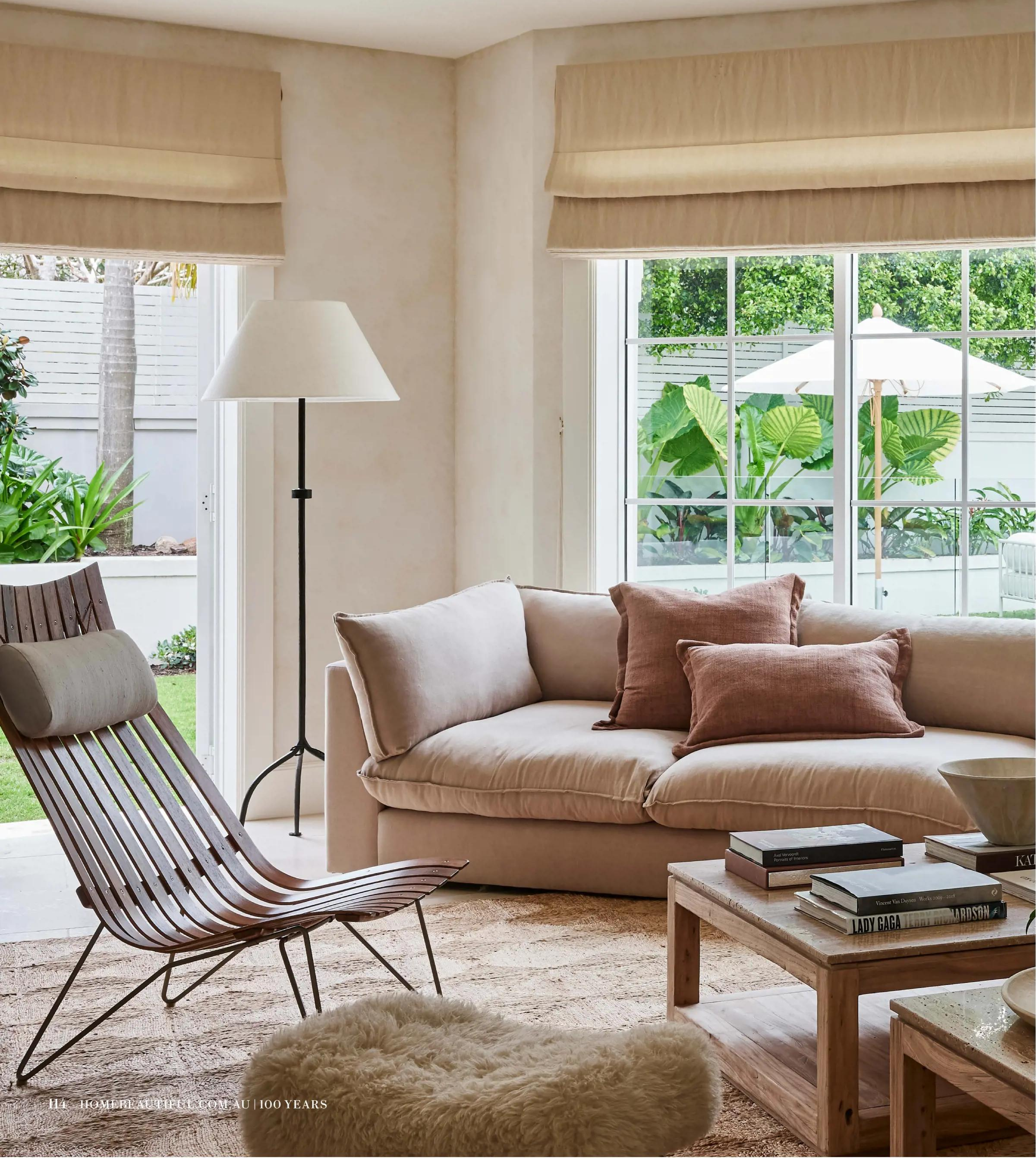
WE LOVE… *joyous tablescaping*

Sophia and Grace enjoy creating the celebratory tablescape in preparation for the family's long Christmas lunch. "It's become a bit of a tradition that they add something special to it, whether it's place cards or homemade decorations," shares Kate. "This year, when it comes to Christmas decorations, I've been loving Adairs. I got decked out with the tree, Christmas decorations and tablescapes. They've literally got everything, so they've got me in the festive spirit!" In keeping with her home's warm, earth-drawn palette, Kate selected decor with the natural hues of woven rattan, offset with crisp white and pops of glistening gold. For inspiration, head to adairs.com.au

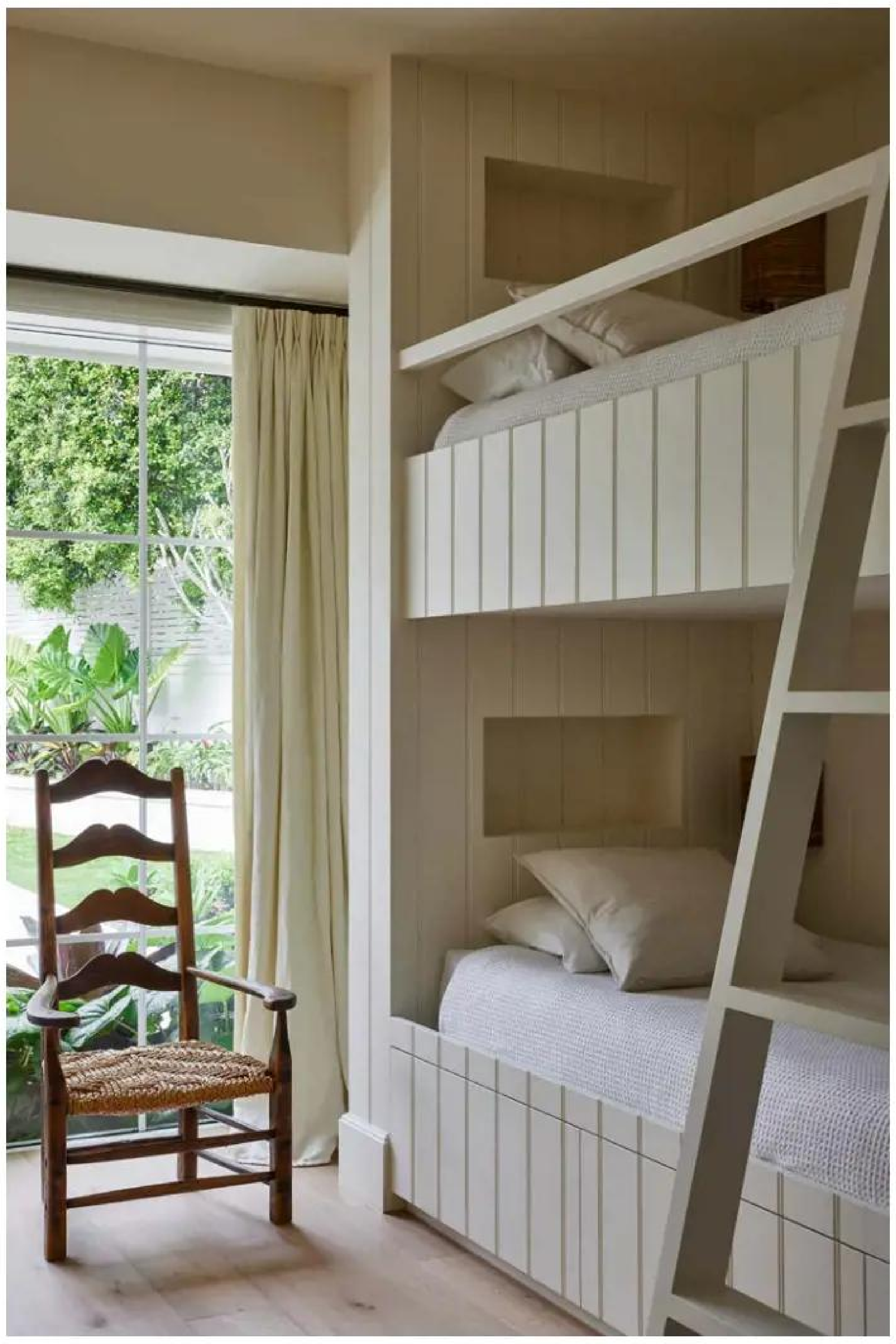
Kitchen *"I love our kitchen," says Kate. "It's the heart of the home and where we spend so much time together." Shaker-style joinery in Resene Buttery White offers plentiful storage, while the butler's pantry keeps the room clutter-free. Swathes of luxurious Carrara marble on the benchtops and splashback elevate the practical space, which is equipped with an Ilve 'Nostalgie' cooker, a Whispair 'Monte Carlo' concealed rangehood and a wide Shaws 'Edgworth' fireclay sink, all from Winnings. A traditional bridge-style Perrin & Rowe 'Ionian' mixer tap and pot filler, both from The English Tapware Company, doff their hats to Kate's timeless style. Nearby, an antique sideboard, artwork and rush stool, all from The Vault, offer the final, classic flourish.* >

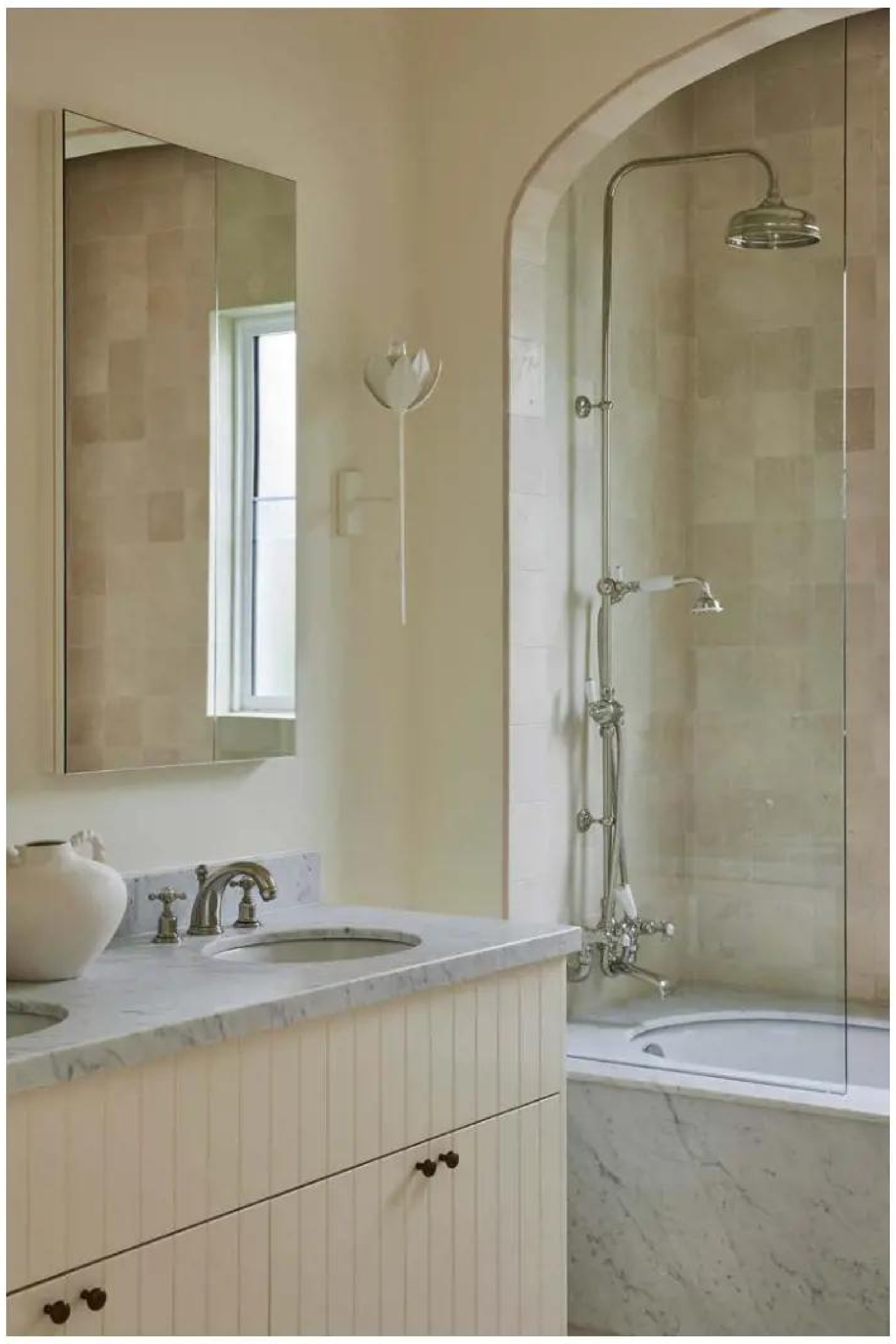
> “I WAS DRAWN TO A PALETTE THAT FELT SERENE AND CONNECTED TO THE BEACH, WHILE STILL BEING SOPHISTICATED”
>
> **KATE WATERHOUSE**

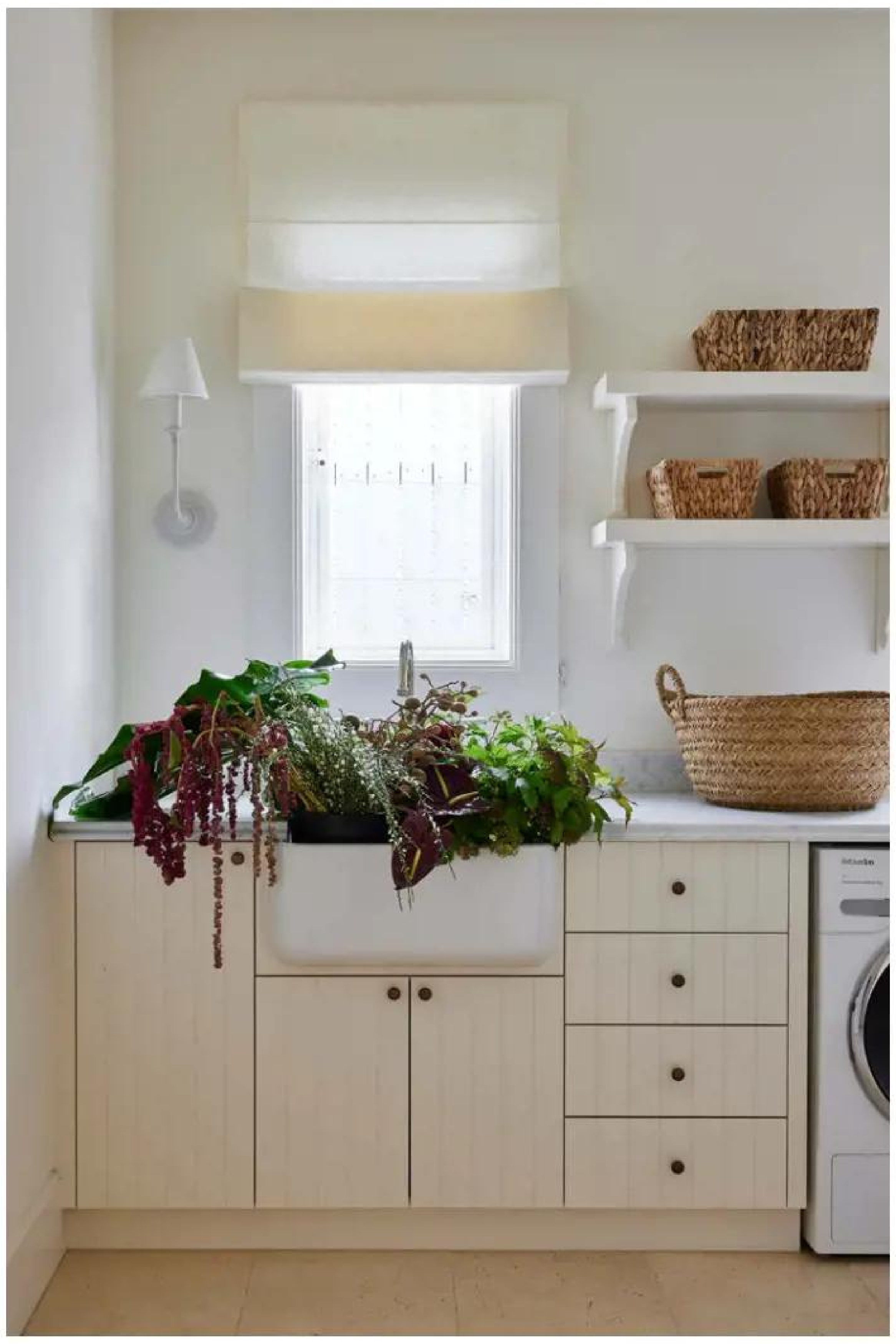
__Living__ Phoebe designed the inviting ribbon of sofa in the living area and teamed it with a vintage slatted lounge chair by Hans Brattrud from Studio Gardner and a 'Clam' stool by Arnold Madsen. 'Axol' coffee tables from MCM House are heaped with books, a Moroccan vase and papier-mâché bowl, both Watertiger, and an alabaster head of Hygeia from Mercer & Lewis. A 1940s-style hammered iron floor lamp from The Vault and bespoke sconces, designed by Phoebe, illuminate the tactile finish of the custom-coloured French wash on the walls by Porter's Paints. The artwork is 'Postcard 6 (3 Holes)' by Dean Cross and Alvaro Barrington in 2023 from Station Gallery. >

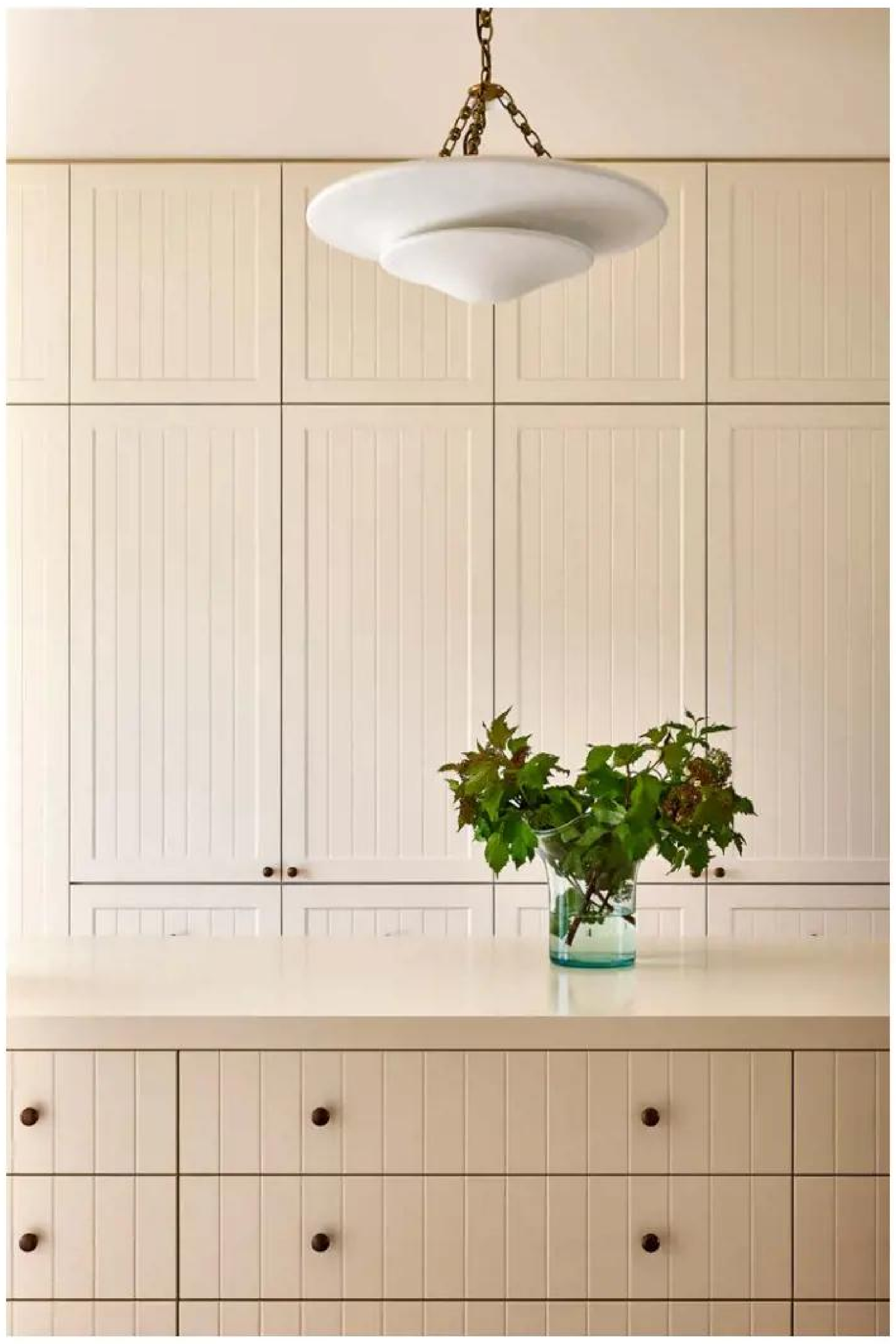


TE MOSS
CURATED STYLE
KERRIE ANN JONES
CURATED STYLE
AD at 100





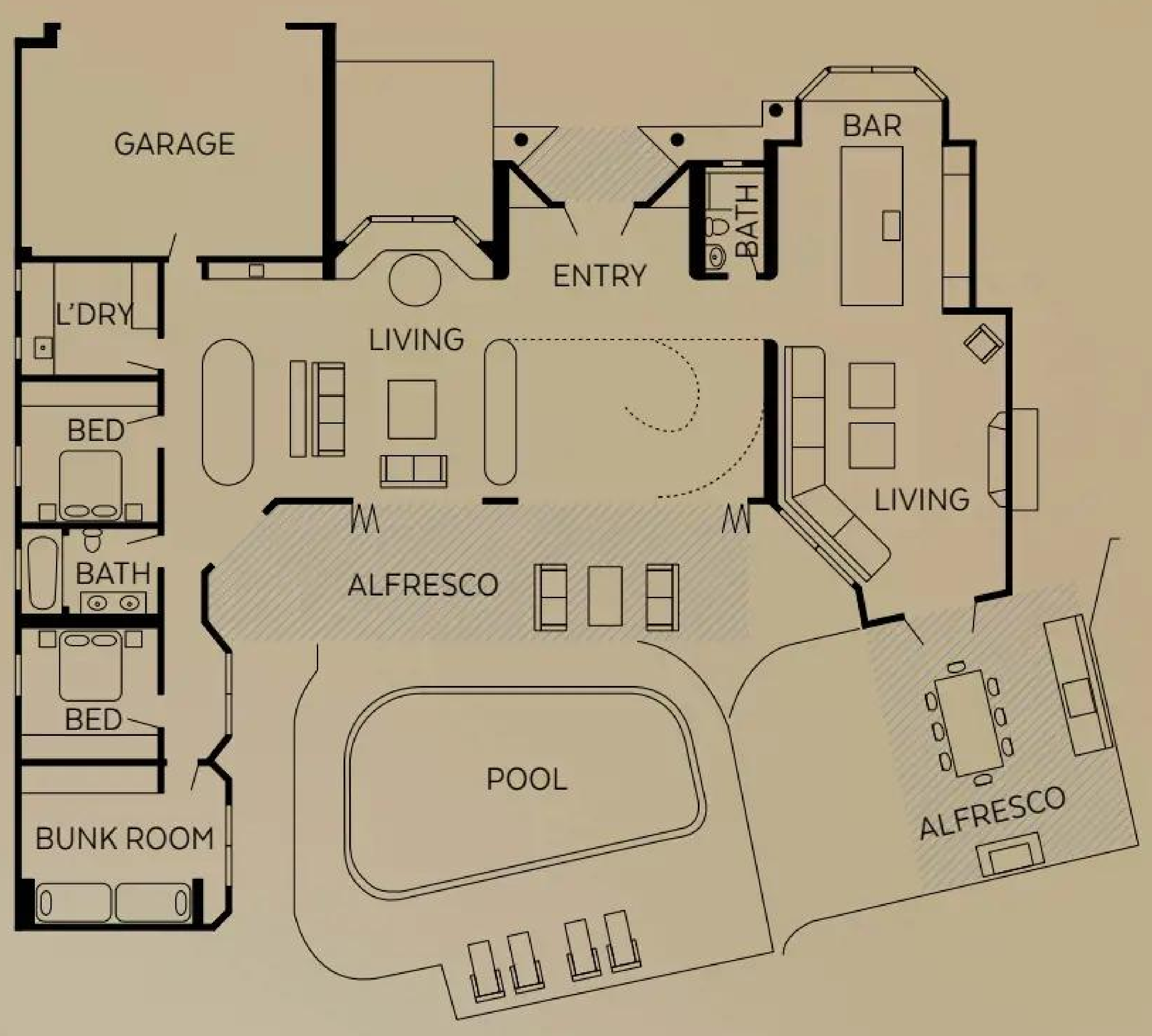




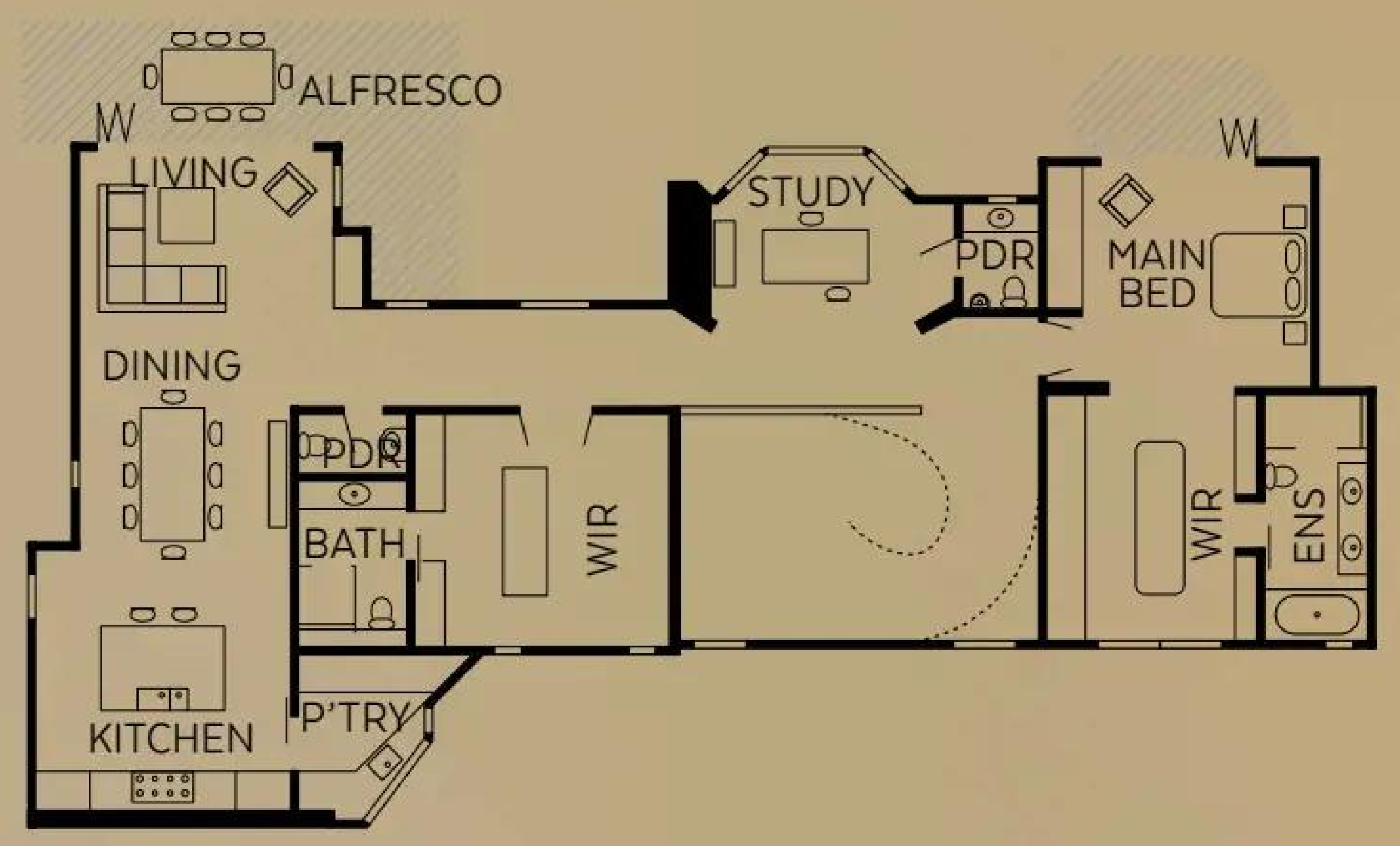
Bunk room *"It brings me so much joy knowing it will be filled with laughter and memories," says Kate of the bunk room (top left), with chair from The Vault.* ***Main bathroom*** *An 'Alberto' sconce from Bloomingdales Lighting joins a Carrara marble vanity top in the bathroom (top right). The Kaldewei 'Saniform Plus' bath is from Harvey Norman.* ***Laundry*** *This utility space (bottom left) has a Thomas O'Brien 'Piaf' sconce from Bloomingdales Lighting, Astra Walker 'Olde English' tapware and a Shaws sink from Winnings.* ***Walk-in wardrobe*** *Phoebe designed the pendant in Kate's dressing space (bottom right).* ***Main bedroom*** *The lamp and bedhead are also custom in the bedroom (opposite). A Society Limonta bedcover and Wedgwood vase from Ondene offset a stool, bedside tables and art from The Vault, with a rug from International Floorcoverings.* **>**

FLOOR PLAN

GROUND FLOOR


GARAGE
BAR
BATH
ENTRY
L'DRY
LIVING
BED
LIVING
BATH
ALFRESCO
BED
POOL
ALFRESCO
BUNK ROOM

FIRST FLOOR


ALFRESCO
LIVING
STUDY
PDR
MAIN BED
DINING
PDR
BATH
WIR
WIR
ENS
KITCHEN
P'TRY

SOURCE BOOK

Interior design *Phoebe Nicol, phoebenicol.com.*
Landscape design *Edwina Stewart, edwinastuart.com.*

Alfresco *A 'Rowe' sun lounger and 'Malfy' outdoor umbrellas, all from MCM House, welcome family and friends in the lush poolside backyard, where Sophia and Grace love cooling off with a splash. Beyond the home's exterior walls in Porter's Paints Old Church White, tall palm trees evoke the feel of a tropical holiday and hint at the coastal frivolity that awaits the family at Christmastide.*

GUTTER CREDIT TEXTA NARROW BOLD

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IDEAS AND INSPIRATION FOR STYLISH OUTDOOR LIVING

SILVER LINING
PAGE 122 →

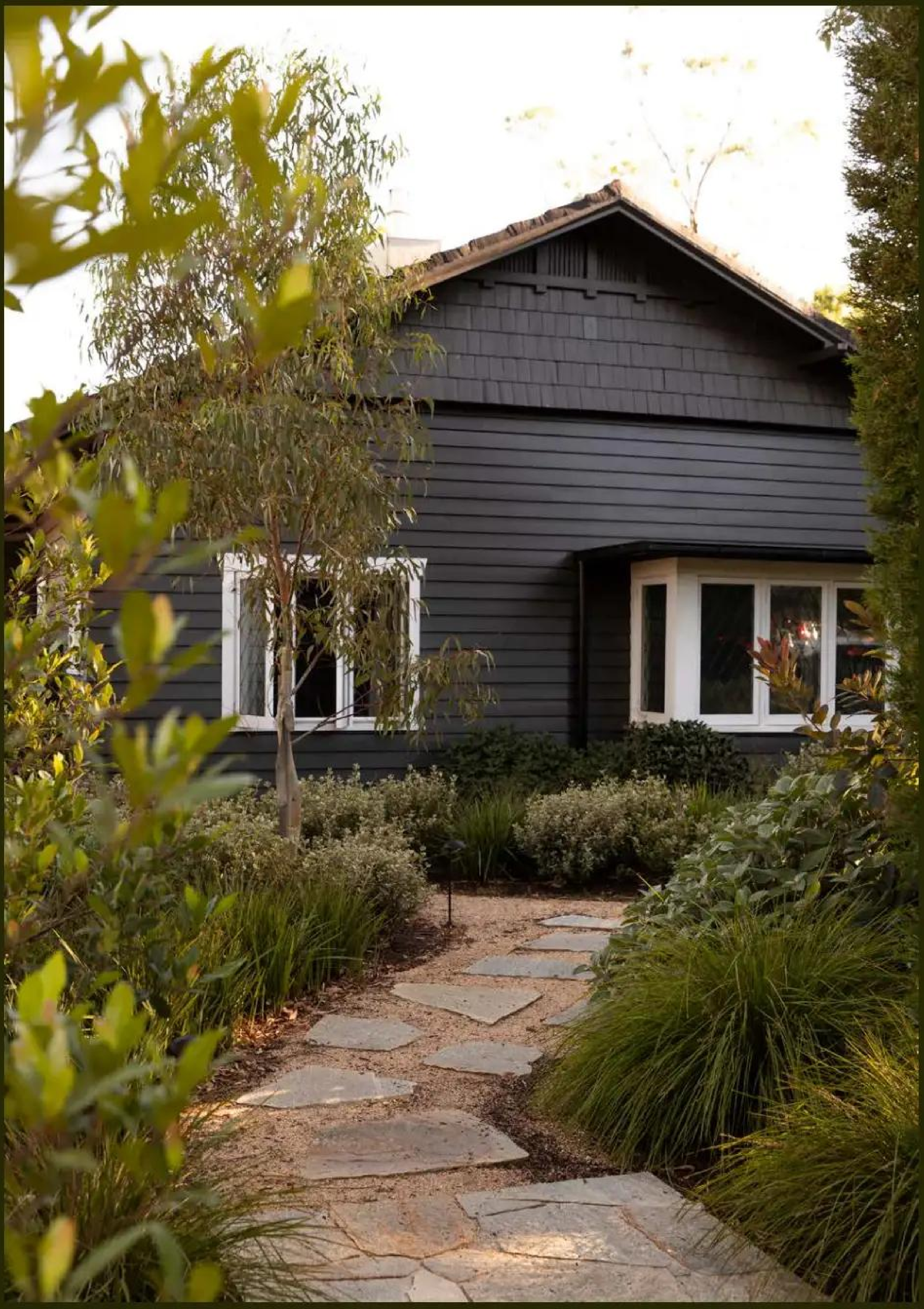
PHOTOGRAPHY: MARTINA GEMMOLA

Beaten track *A once-neglected garden has become a refined retreat for homeowners Jane and Andrew, their three adult children and two Miniature Schnauzers. Bordered by a plant palette of silvery natives and grey foliage, the gravel driveway made from compacted Dromana granite toppings creates a natural entry while meeting strict council regulations. >*

SILVER LINING

This contemporary native garden design enjoys the tick of approval from council without scrimping on style and structure

STORY **TENEAL ZUVELA** | PHOTOGRAPHY **MARTINA GEMMOLA**



When Jane and Andrew began renovating their heritage-listed weatherboard property in a leafy East Melbourne suburb, they were eager to give the landscape just as much attention as the home. "The existing garden was completely overgrown and had been uncared for, for many years," explains Andrew. The couple, who live here with their three adult children, Patrick, Tom and Sophie, plus two Miniature Schnauzers, envisioned a welcoming garden at the front and a functional outdoor living space at the back, complete with a swimming pool and wide lawn.

The challenge lay in the home's historical significance. Built in 1923 by eminent Craftsman-style architect Algernon John Elmore and renovated by Neil Architecture, the property had strict council regulations. Landscape architect Bethany Williamson was enlisted to balance these requirements with the couple's vision for a beautiful, liveable space. "With a traditional frontage and a contemporary extension at the rear, the design needed to bridge both styles while still feeling cohesive overall," explains Bethany. The solution was a modern garden and palette, which seamlessly integrated council's mandates for Australian native species, with a more structured design that suited the home's rustic materials and moody colours. "We chose plants that are resilient and visually engaging, with plenty of texture, layering and a simple colour palette that enhances the home's exterior," says Bethany.

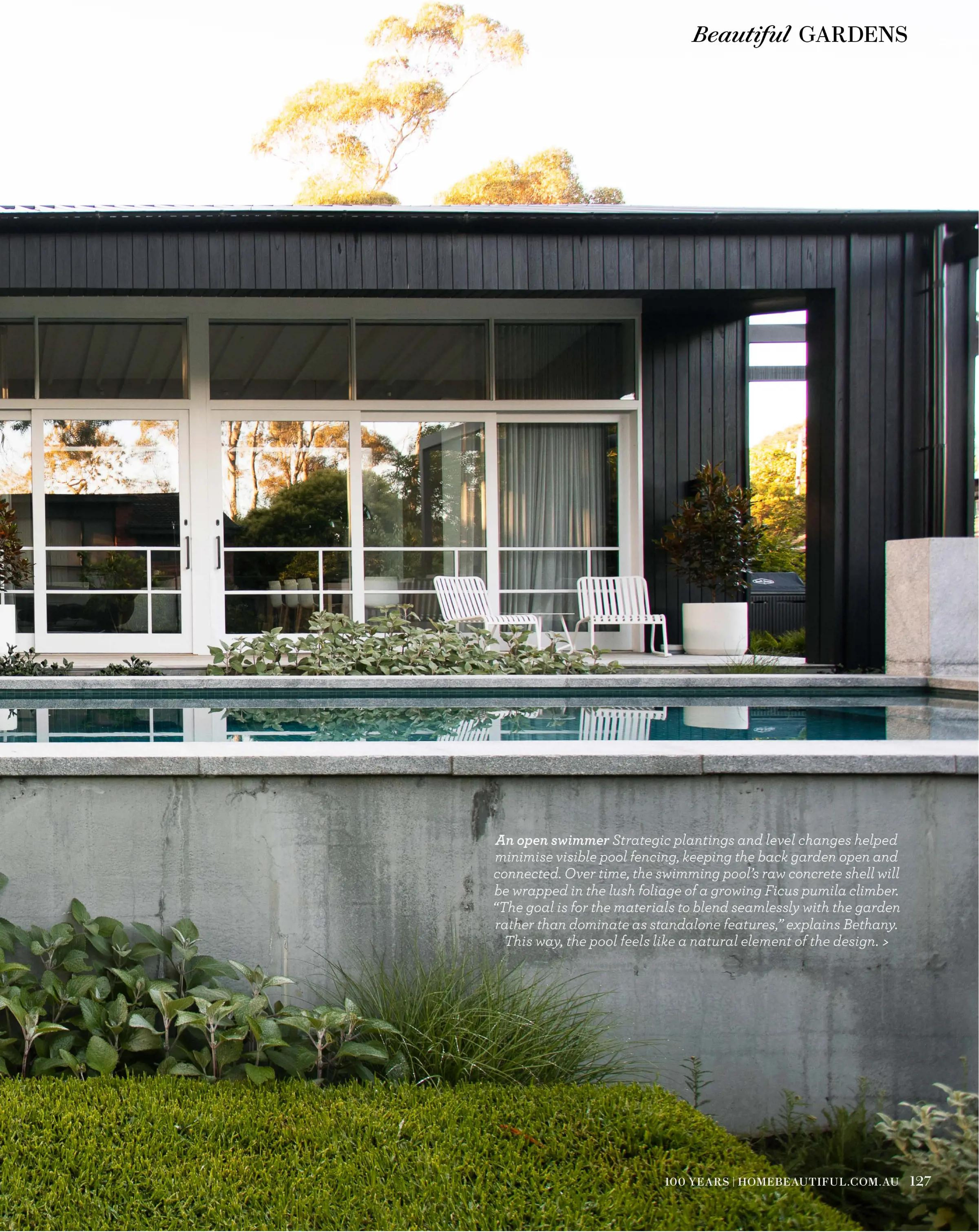
In the back garden, a concrete above-ground swimming pool is the clever solution to pool fencing regulations and serves as the silver-accented garden's striking centrepiece. "We love spending time outside in the warmer months, enjoying the pool surrounded by lush gardens," says Andrew. "Locals often stop to chat as they walk by, offering compliments on how we've restored the 'Elmore' house and how the garden really suits it."

Bush beauty *The muted, silvery hues of the native plantings allow the home's striking charcoal exterior to shine (this page).* ***Garden path*** *A mixture of mounding shrubs (opposite), including Correa alba and Plectranthus argentatus, with ornamental grasses such as Miscanthus 'Kleine Fontaine' and Dianella 'Revelation', form a lush border along the Eco Outdoor 'Luca' crazy paving path. Cypress hedging creates an impressive boundary, while climbing Trachelospermum jasminoides adds fragrance and charm.* >

GUTTER CREDIT TEXTA NARROW BOLD

“THE GARDEN FEELS RELAXED AND WELCOMING, WITH STRUCTURE WHERE IT’S NEEDED”

BETHANY WILLIAMSON, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

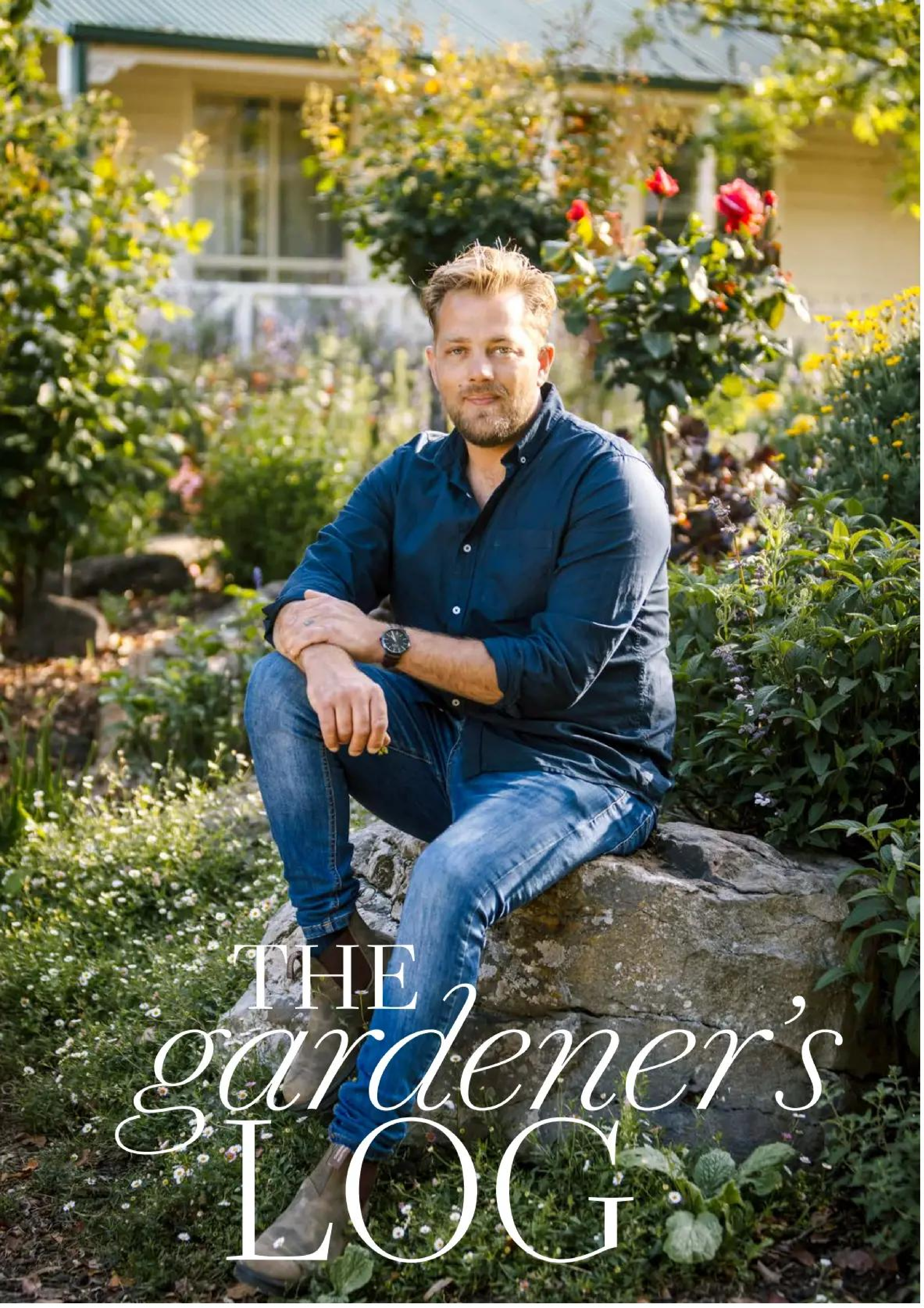


An open swimmer *Strategic plantings and level changes helped minimise visible pool fencing, keeping the back garden open and connected. Over time, the swimming pool's raw concrete shell will be wrapped in the lush foliage of a growing Ficus pumila climber. "The goal is for the materials to blend seamlessly with the garden rather than dominate as standalone features," explains Bethany. This way, the pool feels like a natural element of the design. >*

SOURCE BOOK

Landscape design *BWLA, bethanywilliamson.com.au.*
Landscaping *Iconic Gardens, iconicgardens.com.au.*
Pool construction *Southern Cross Pools, southerncrosspools.com.au.*

Family friendly *The rear garden is designed for family living, with a slim timber deck and Sir Walter Buffalo lawn providing space for relaxation (this page).* ***Concrete jungle*** *Plectranthus argentatus and Miscanthus 'Kleine Fontaine' foliage softens the edges of the pool's granite coping, in 'Aston Grey' from Granite Works. The Pool Tile Company's 'Blue Gum' tiles add a serene splash of cerulean to the watery oasis (opposite).* HB



THE *gardener's* LOG

This easy guide to growing hydrangeas reaps armfuls of flowers for years to come

WORDS **ASHLEY JAMES** | PHOTOGRAPHY **ALLIE ASZODI**

There's a certain magic to hydrangeas, the sort that sneaks up on you when you least expect it. One moment the garden is all leaf and promise, the next it's transformed into a painter's palette of blushing pinks, soft blues and creamy white petals, as though someone has spilt a box of watercolours across its borders. Hydrangeas bloom with the self-assuredness of plants that know they're beloved – sufficiently timeless to have graced our grandparents' gardens – yet bold enough to hold their own in contemporary planting schemes.

I have always thought hydrangeas have a personality: generous, theatrical in summer, occasionally unpredictable and utterly dependable once you understand their moods. They thrive on a moderate dose of care and conversation, and in return they'll fill your garden with billowing clouds of flowers that turn with the seasons. Place them where you can admire them from your favourite chair – hydrangeas love putting on a show for anyone who's willing to watch.

Hydrangeas come in many forms, each with its own character. Mopheads and lacecaps are the most familiar: mopheads with their blousy, spherical flower heads and lacecaps with their delicate, flat heads framed by a ring of florets. Then you have all the architectural drama of paniculatas, with their tall, conical flower heads that age from creamy white to soft pink. Oakleaf hydrangeas bring extra personality with deeply lobed leaves that turn fiery in autumn; while smooth hydrangeas, like the legendary 'Annabelle', reward gardeners with enormous snowball-like blooms, even in cool-climate gardens.

And then there's the magic of colour. In Hydrangea macrophylla, flowers respond to your soil's pH levels: acidic soils encourage blues and purples; alkaline soils reap pink blooms. White hydrangeas, however, remain elegantly indifferent – the neutral observers of the garden stage. If your hydrangea insists on pink when you were hoping for blue, take a deep breath – it's just showing off its independence. A little soil tweak with sulfur or acidic compost should nudge it in the right direction. Conversely, a touch of garden lime will help promote pink flowers.

Hydrangeas are deciduous and easy to grow providing you honour their needs. Most thrive in morning sun with afternoon shade and enjoy rich, well-draining soil. Mulch around the base to keep roots cool and moist, and water regularly, especially in hot, dry weather – they like a proper afternoon tea – but don't let them sit with soggy feet.

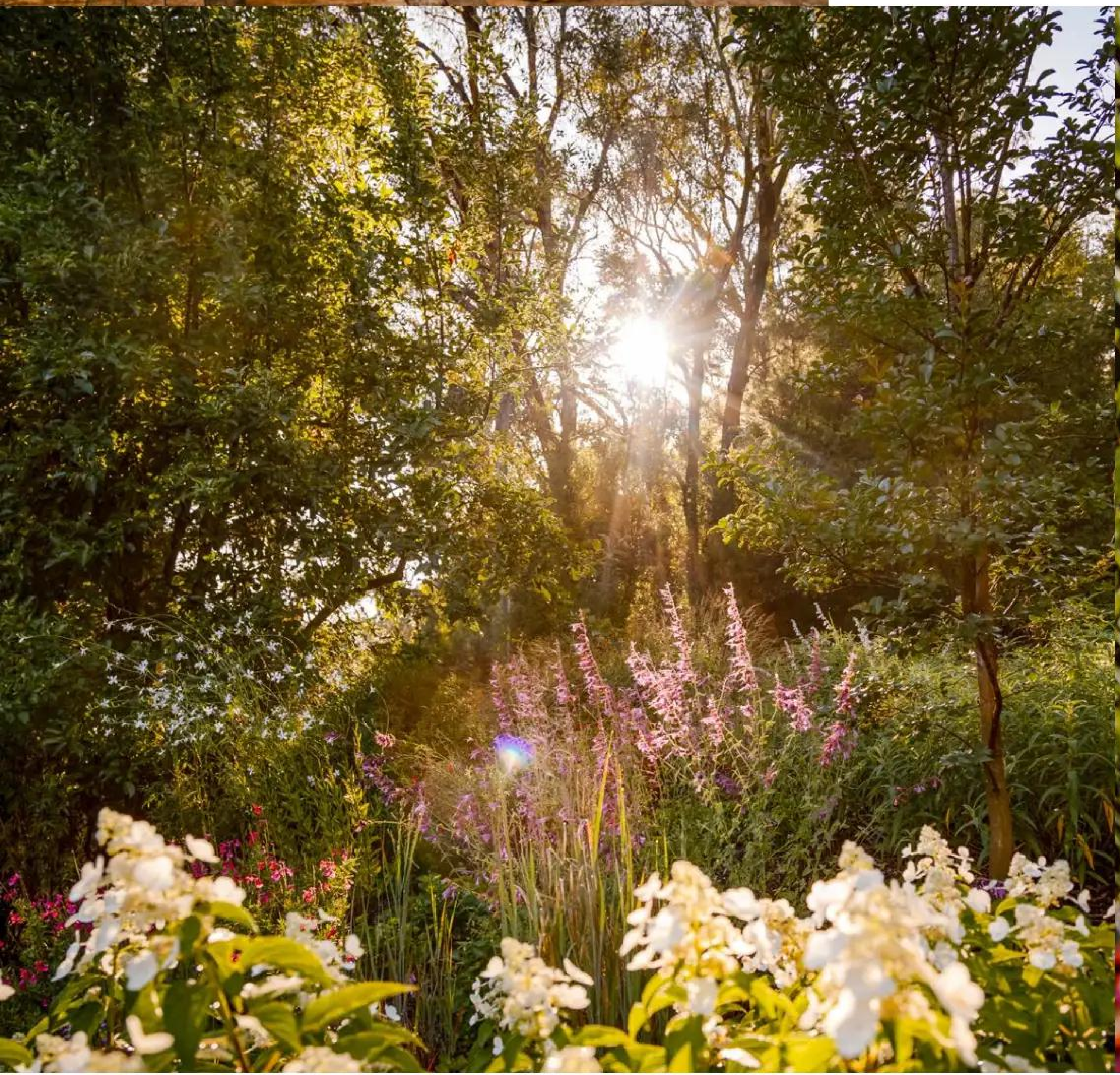
Pruning may feel daunting, but it's simple if you know the rules: mopheads and oakleafs flower on old wood, so only lightly trim them after they bloom; paniculatas and smooth hydrangeas bloom on new wood, so prune them harder in late winter. Cutting back mopheads can feel like farewelling your flowers, but trust me – a gentle trim right after they bloom won't bruise their ego. Some slow-release fertiliser in spring also helps encourages generous blooms.

Hydrangeas make a garden feel alive. They suit every style, from romantic cottage plots to modern minimalism, and their flowers lend themselves to fresh bouquets and dried arrangements. Some years they're bashful and shy, other years they sing their presence across the garden. Roll with it and they'll reward you season after season.

In a world of ever-demanding plants, hydrangeas are delightfully forgiving – resilient and endlessly captivating. So, next time you wander past one, pause to admire it. After all, a garden without a little magic is just a patch of green.

Ashley James (pictured) is a horticulturist and garden designer based in Victoria, who has gained a reputation for creating gardens in a vast range of styles, from romantic plots to bold urban spaces. He has appeared on a number of TV shows and his own garden, named The Potager Garden, has drawn attention worldwide.

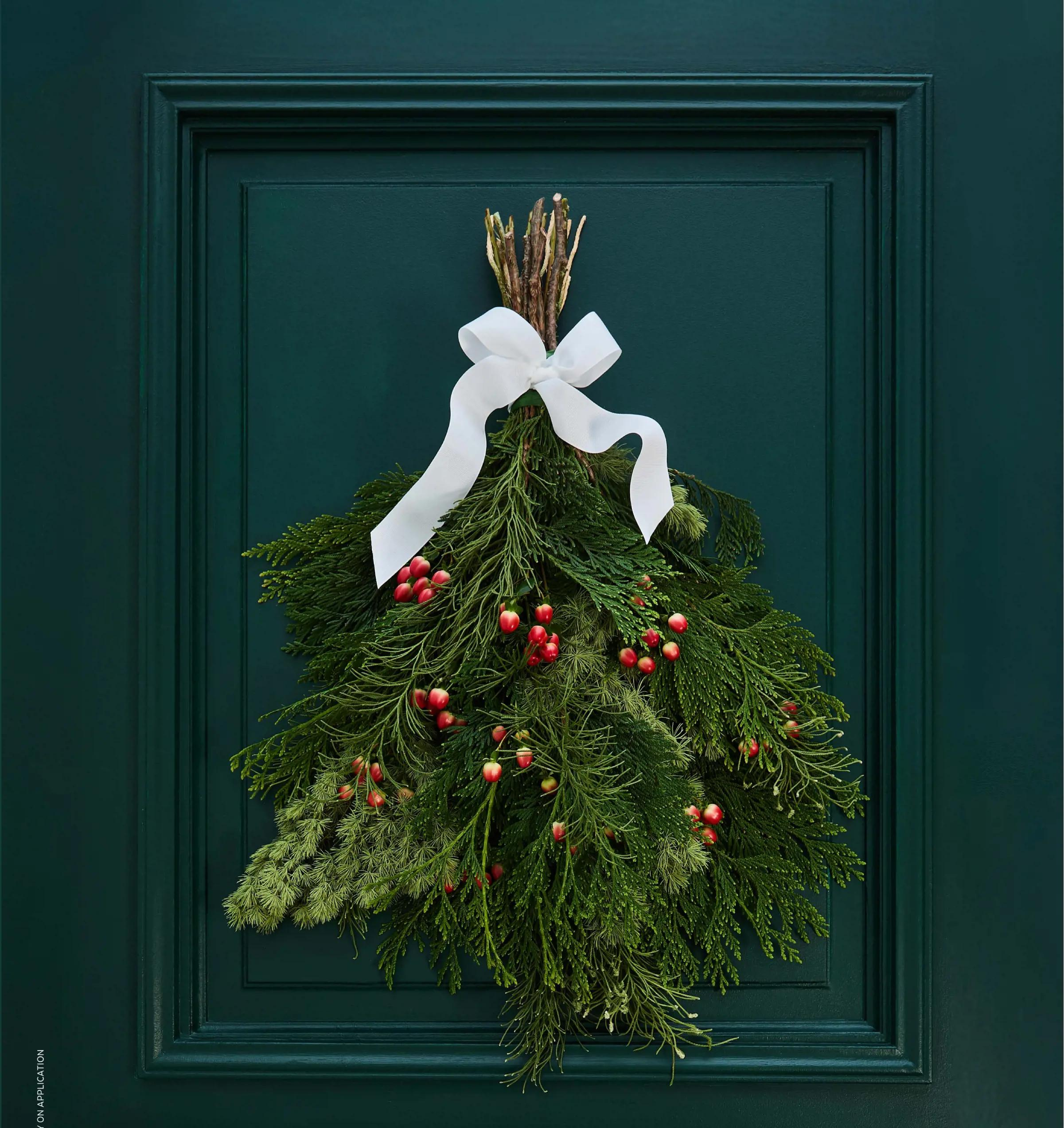
Clockwise from top left *Mophead hydrangeas rise gallantly above cascading Dichondra 'Silver Falls' in this garden, designed by Ashley, in a home on the Mornington Peninsula. Alkaline soils encourage pink hydrangea flowers – simply 'sweeten' acidic soil by adding garden lime or dolomite to increase its pH level. Hydrangeas are striking when planted en masse or as a deciduous border. Lacecap hydrangeas have a delicate beauty. Style hydrangeas in woven baskets for a warm welcome.* HB



Deck the DOORS

The front door is our favourite place to make a festive first impression, and it doesn't have to involve a traditional wreath. From fragrant foliage and whimsical florals to ribbons, bells and pine cones, there are countless ways to deck your doorway in seasonal style. It might even be the perfect time to adorn your door with a fresh coat of paint. Here, we've matched Wattyl's most beautiful hues with decorative touches to ring in the holidays in style – and keep the cheer shining long after the season ends.

WORDS **REBECCA HOOTON** | STYLING **KATE LINCOLN**
PHOTOGRAPHY **LAUREN TROMPP**



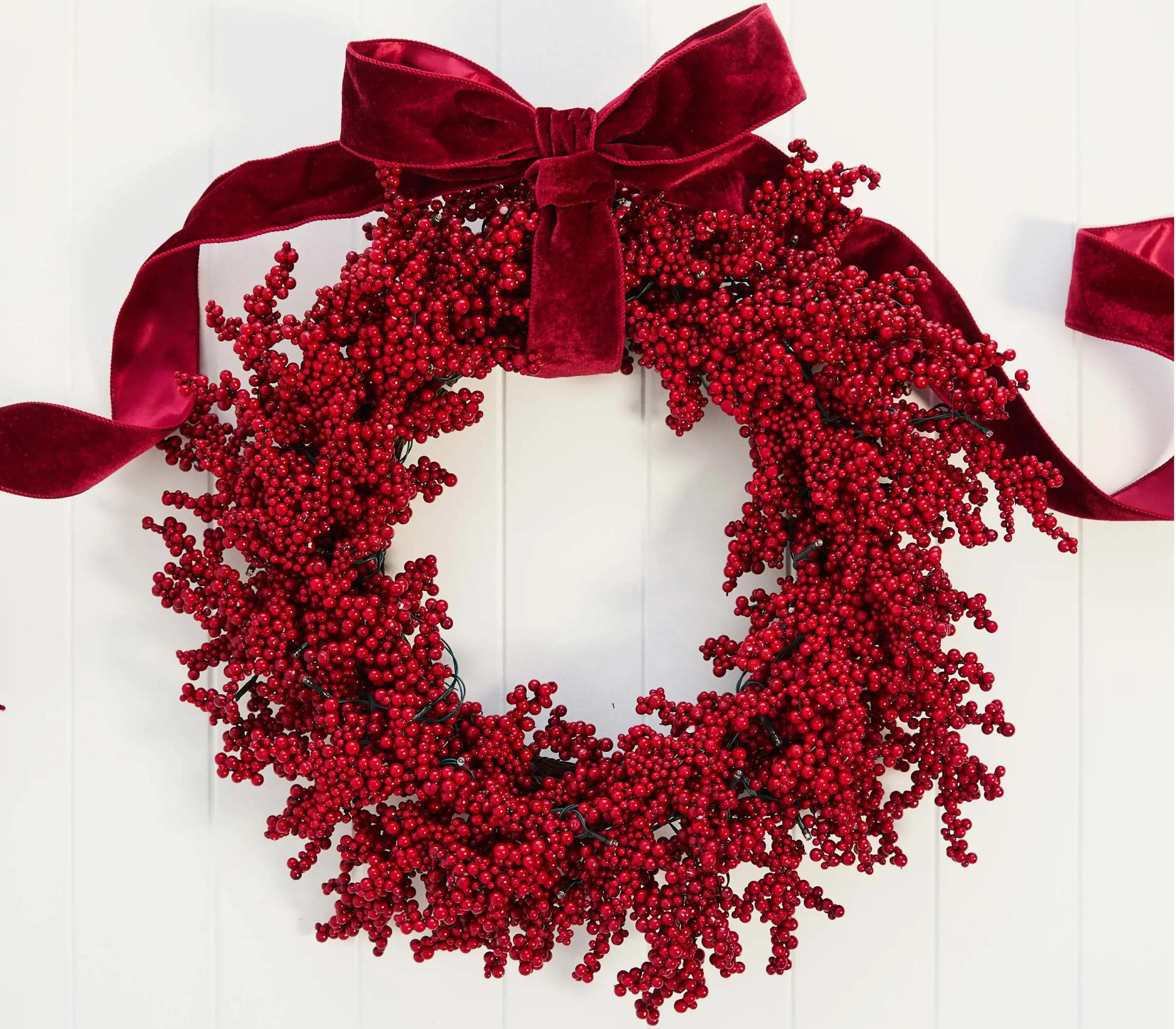
ALL SPRUCED UP

The look *This festive door evokes evergreen elegance, with mixed foliage, pops of berries and a crisp white bow that hints at mistletoe mischief. A merry moss-coloured coat of Wattyl Baldrick Green brings the look to life, resulting in a joyful entrance ready for the season's celebrations.*

Styling tip *Hanging seasonal greenery adds a festive touch without the formality of a traditional wreath. To prolong the freshness of your arrangement, trim the stems regularly and put them in fresh water. Misting the foliage daily can also help maintain its vitality.*

The materials *To create this abundant bunch, Susan Avery Flowers and Events combined conifer, preserved ming fern and moss foliage with red Hypericum berries. A length of ribbon neatly conceals the wire or twine used to bind the stems and makes it easy to hang.* >

ALL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

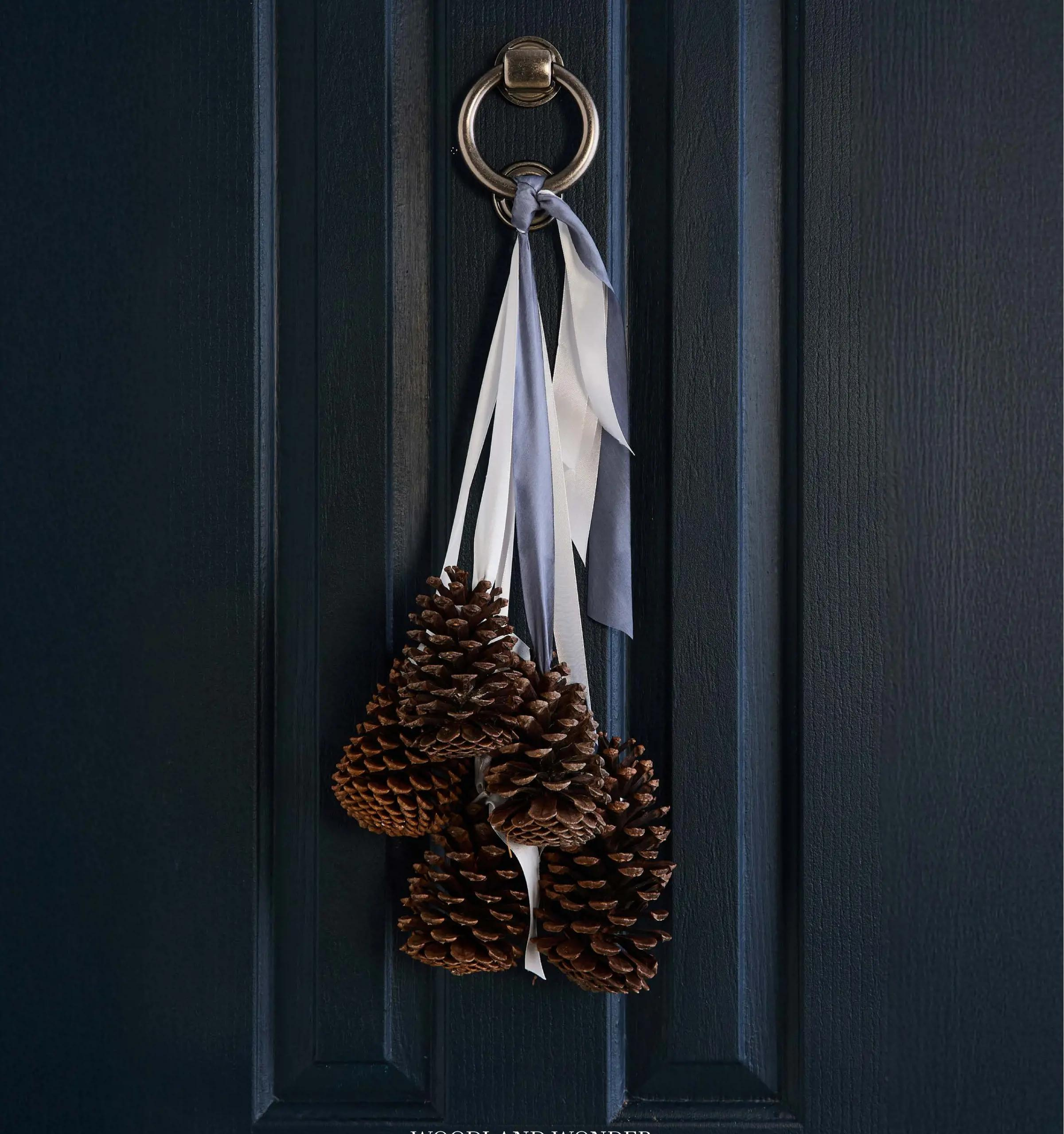


BERRY AND BRIGHT

The look *A red berry wreath and velvet bow in traditional red tones bring festive charm to any entrance, while twinkling lights among the berries keep the magic alive after the sun has set. Combined with a door finished in Wattyl Paper White, it's sure to get everyone's attention – even Santa.*

Styling tip *Opt for a monochromatic wreath to create a striking, modern look. The bold crimson pops beautifully against a white door or facade. Keeping the design simple without extra greenery or mixed colours ensures it feels clean, stylish and effortlessly festive – no tinsel required.*

The materials *Pre-lit with warm white lights, the Alfresco Emporium 'Red Berry Wreath', $149/75cm, brings bold colour with dense berry clusters. The burgundy velvet ribbon with satin backing from My Christmas, $34.95/3.8cm wide x 9.10 metres, is fastened to the top with a flourish.*



WOODLAND WONDER

The look *Pine cones hung from this smart knocker bring a yuletide touch with a nod to Northern Hemisphere sensibilities. Silver and denim ribbons create sleek lines against the door in Wattyl Cotswold, conjuring a winter forest mood. You can almost smell the crisp pine and spice of gingerbread.*

Styling tip *You don't need a perfect arrangement to make a jolly impact. Group an odd number of pine cones for a look that feels thoughtfully curated. Tie ribbons around the grooves of each cone and let them drape naturally — it's an easy, cost-conscious way to create a festive display.*

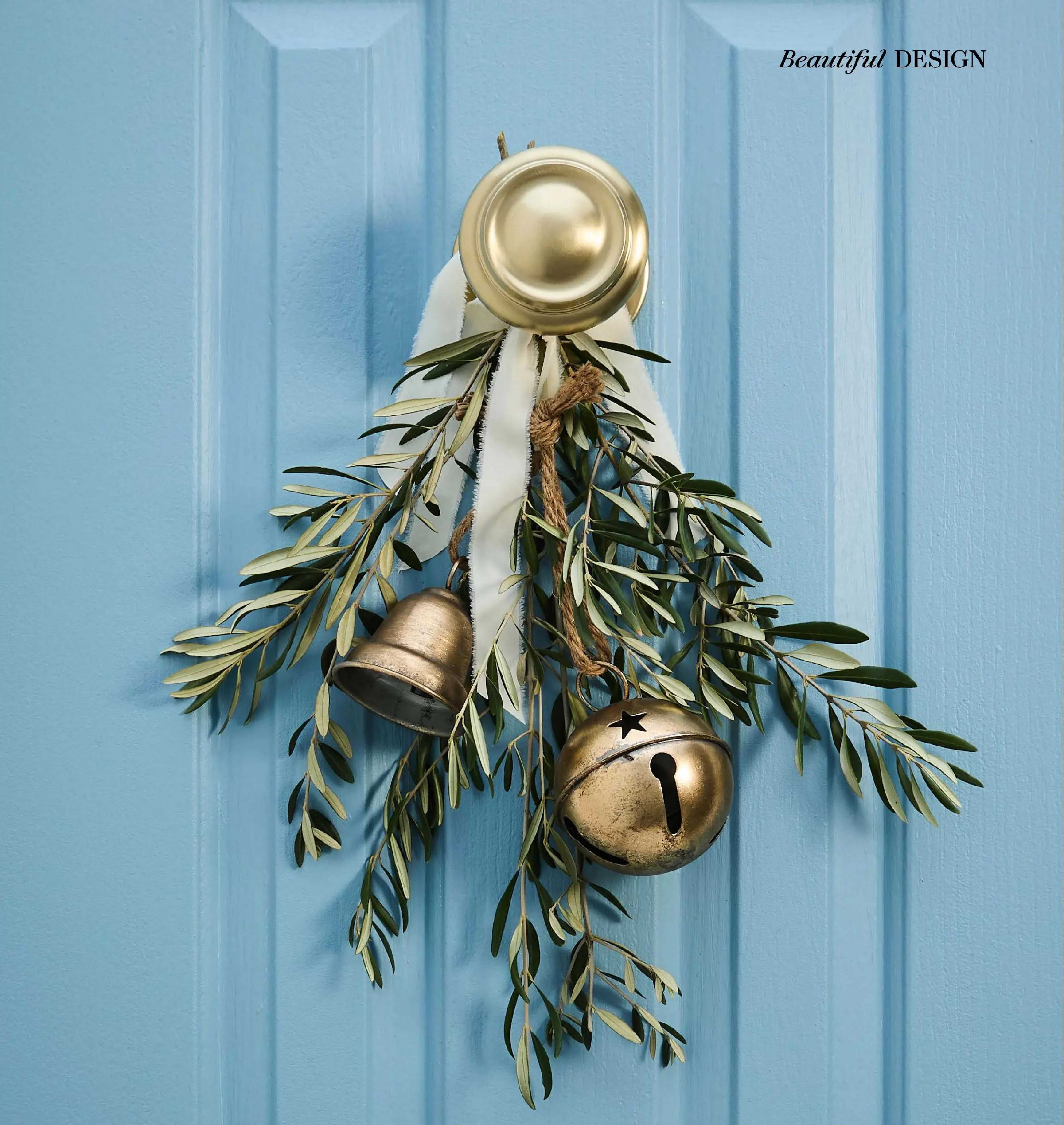
The materials *Pine cones sourced from Parrot Supplies Australia, $3.50/set of 3 (currently unavailable) are teamed with silver ribbon from Amazon, $15.99, and denim silk ribbon, $25.95/3m, Bespoke Letterpress. These hang from the 'Ring' door knocker in Distressed Nickel, $139, Iver.* >

A BOW-TIFUL WELCOME

The look *A large striped fabric bow makes a striking statement against a door in Wattyl Forest Felt. The look is classic with a twist – playful enough for the silly season, but elegant enough to keep up long after the tree comes down… or at least until the Easter eggs appear.*

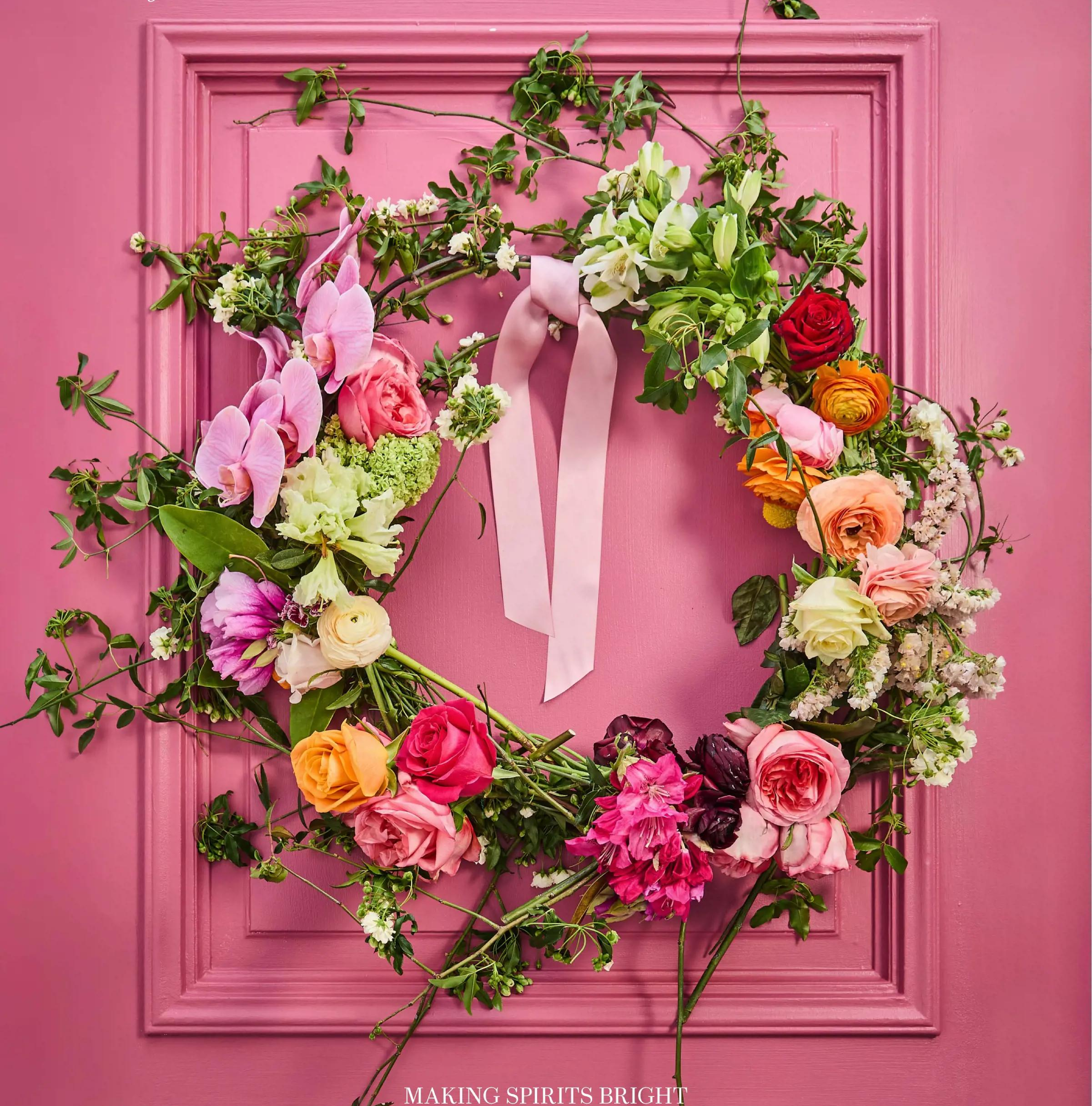
Styling tip *To create this look, a little deft arranging of fabric goes a long way. Use a hot glue gun and a few discreet pipe cleaners to hold the waves and sharp edges in place. You'll feel as crafty as Santa's elves when you hang it proudly out front and step back to admire your handiwork.*

The materials *For the bow fabric, we selected Calverton R fabric in Marine from Warwick. A 'Sarlat' door knocker in Brushed Brass, $274, Iver, and ABI Interiors numbers in matching metallics, $59.90 each, add the final polish – proof that even Santa appreciates good hardware.*



RING IN THE SEASON

The look *Simple lengths of greenery paired with twinkling bells and frayed ribbon create a rustic, homespun charm against a door painted in Wattyl Puffin Watch – a soft, light blue. It's laidback yet festive, the kind of decoration that might even make the reindeer pause for a closer look.*
Styling tip *When creating this arrangement, gather greenery from nature — olive branches, eucalyptus or whatever you have on hand will do. As the foliage dries it adds even more character. Mismatched bells and raw twine help it feel intentionally effortless and full of holiday personality.*
The materials *The giant metal hanging bell, $14.95/9.5cm, and star bell ornament, $9.95/10cm, both from Alfresco Emporium make us want to jingle all the way. They're paired with a 'Chuqing' satin silk ribbon in Beige, $19.19, Amazon, and complemented with a bunch of olive branches.* >

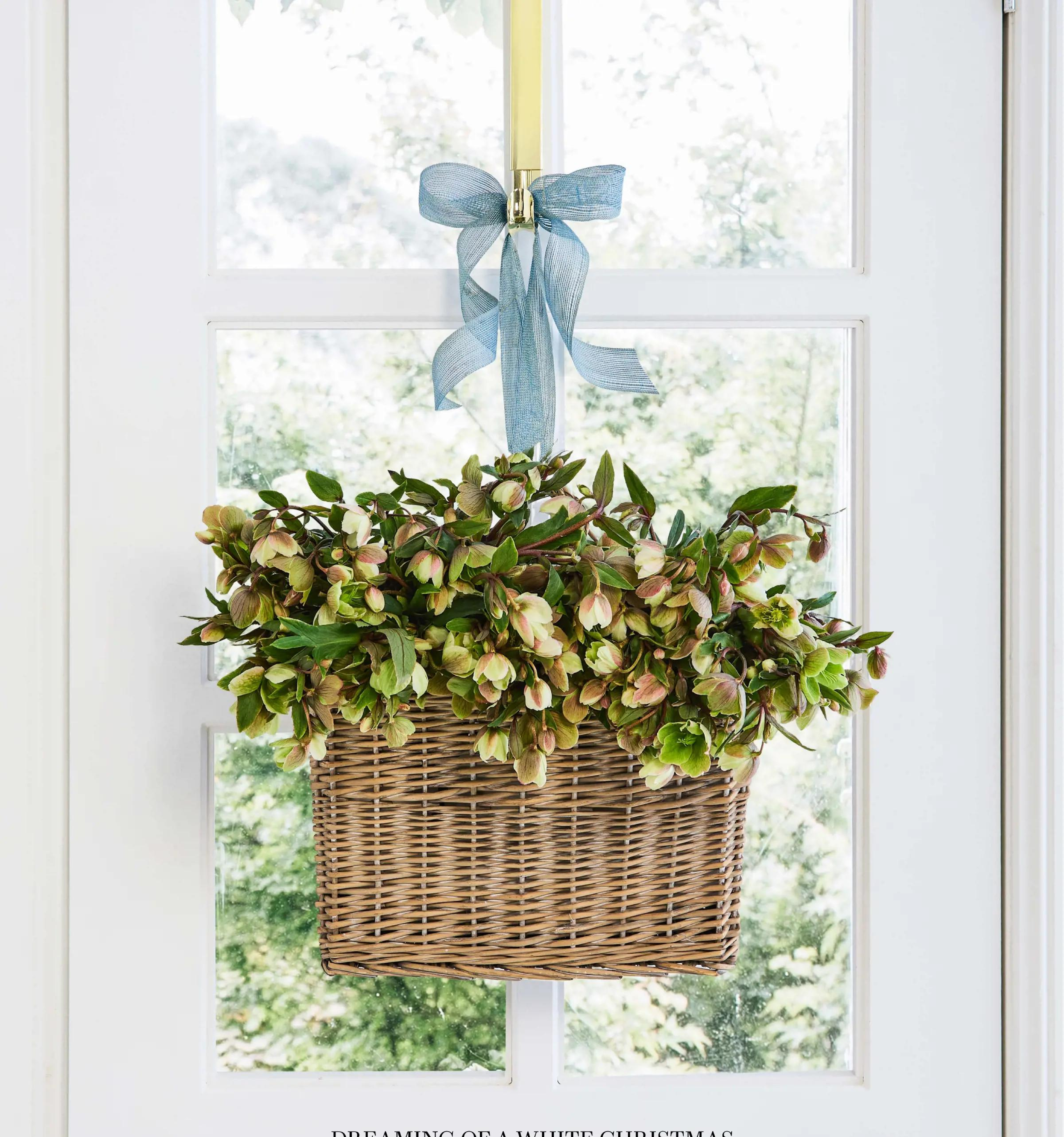


MAKING SPIRITS BRIGHT

The look *A wreath bursting with vibrant florals offers a fresh, non-traditional take on festive decor. When paired with a door painted in the eye-catching Wattyl Kuduk, the bold colours really pop, creating a cheerful and unexpected statement that will make even the Grinch swoon.*

Styling tip *For guests to enjoy it in all its glory, order or prepare the wreath and hang it as close to your celebrations as you can. Like wrapping paper for your home, it's enjoyed for a short time, but that fleeting beauty is what makes it all the more special — and so worth it.*

The materials *This festive wreath, created by Grandiflora, combines a vibrant mix of roses, guelder rose, banksia roses, azaleas, Alstroemeria, Ranunculus and Phalaenopsis orchids. Its rollicking palette, finished with a casual length of pink ribbon, exudes modern joy and cheerful charm.*



DREAMING OF A WHITE CHRISTMAS

The look *An arrangement that looks like a bike basket overflowing with flowers after a morning at the Parisian markets. Set against a door painted in Wattyl Paper White, it inspires a festive Christmas breakfast of crisp, buttery pastries and brings a little extra joie de vivre to your entrance.*

Styling tip *To keep a hanging basket of fresh flowers looking vibrant, add a small container of water at the bottom and refresh it regularly. Trim the stems every few days to help the blooms stay lively or replace with new varieties as you please throughout the season.*

The materials *A rectangular hanging basket from Florabelle (find similar at Pottery Barn) is suspended using an adjustable gold wreath hanger (39–64cm), $19.90, from Real Christmas Trees, and finished with a light blue ribbon. It's filled with softly gathered bunches of hellebores.* HB

Lighting design

Light YEARS

Lighting design has evolved in leaps and bounds throughout the past century. These are the styles that still hold up today

WORDS BRITTANY SMITH

There was once a time, in the not-too-distant past, when the sunset plunged our homes into darkness each night. When *Home Beautiful* was first published in 1925, many Australian homes didn't have electricity. As Sue Walker explains in *The Untold Story of William Shum*, "It was expensive, the supply was unreliable and people were frightened of being electrocuted." *HB* embraced this innovation, encouraging readers with articles about "the strange new world of the all-electric home".

The schemes born in that period still inform our homes. We spoke to lighting designer and Bond University lecturer, Dr Susan Lambert, and co-founder of The Montauk Lighting Co, Marie Botsis-Premici, to shine a light on how the past and present mingle with electric yet timeless style.

'20s – '40s

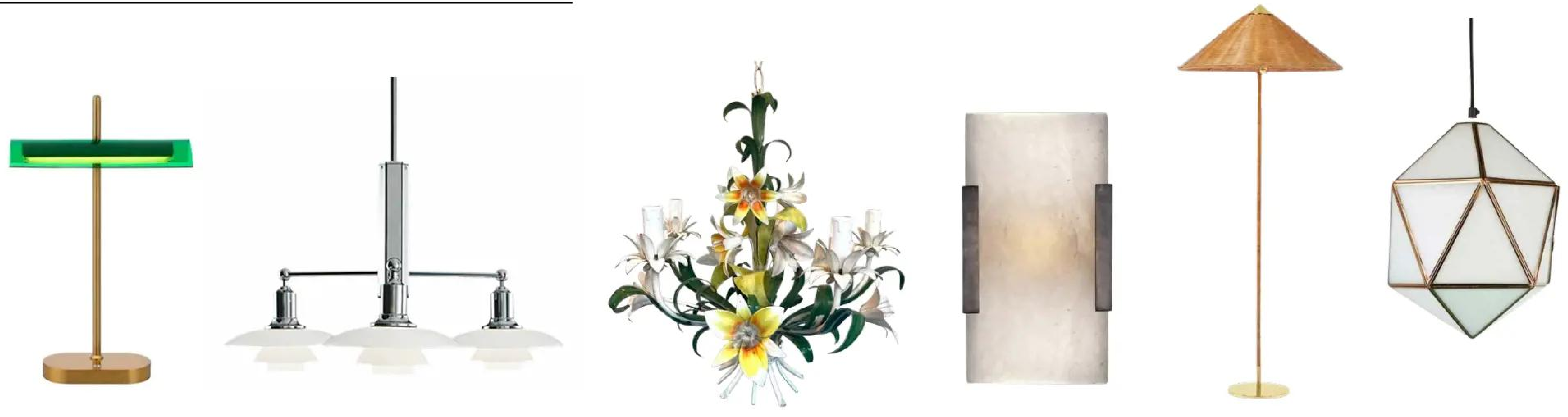
Pretty pendants

There's a lot of charm to the style of lighting that developed in the early days of electricity. As Dr Susan Lambert explains, "Two strong design movements emerged: the Bauhaus and the Art Deco movement." Semi-flush mount ceiling lights with glass shades and satin nickel finishes were popular, as were porcelain pendants. The schoolhouse light shade, with its distinctive curved bowl design, is a standout from the period. These forms of lighting weren't just sculptural but practical as well. "Light shades were diffuse so provided light in all directions," says Susan. For a pendant light that transcends trends, Marie from The Montauk Lighting Co suggests refined silhouettes and quality materials, plus a sense of scale to suit the size of the room.

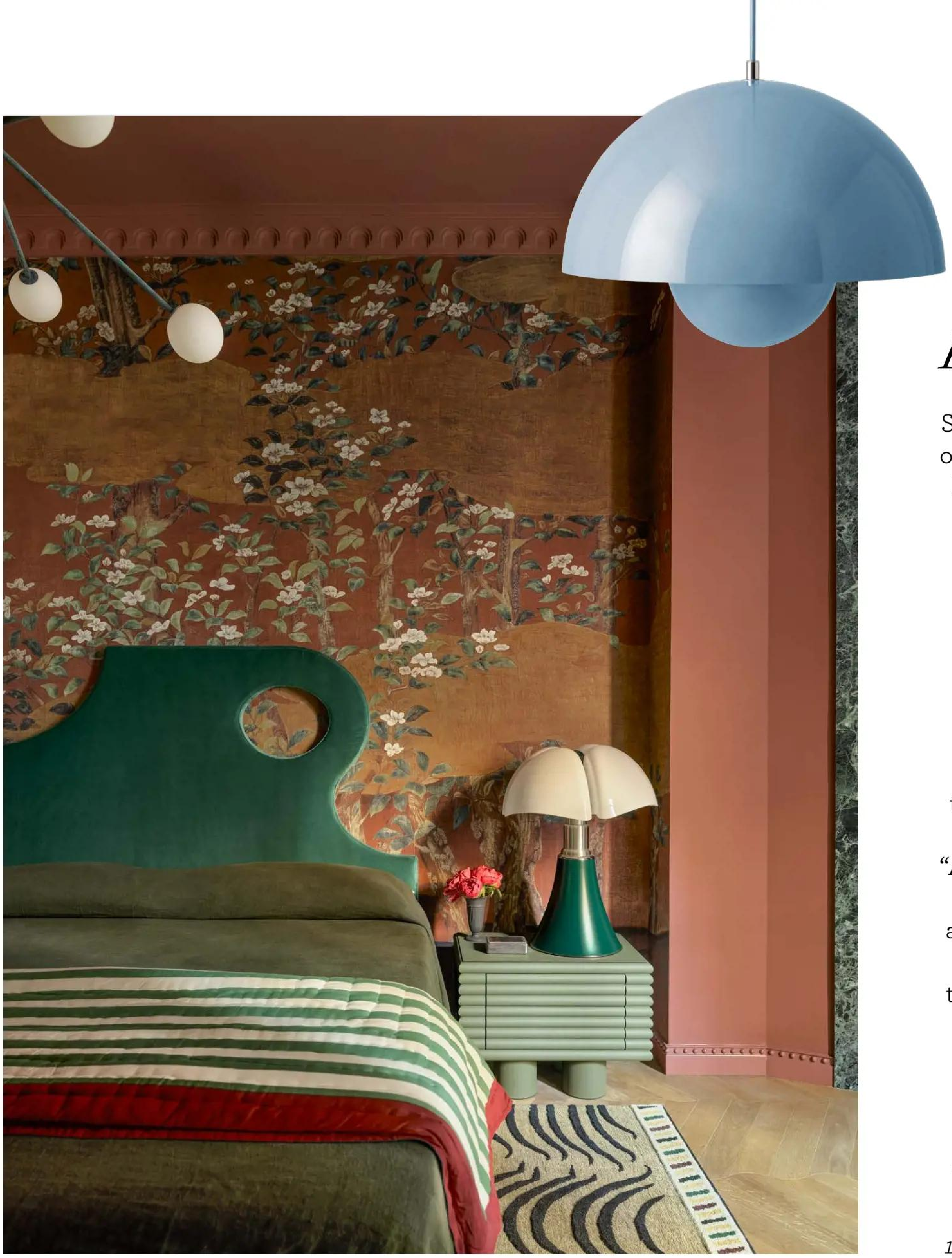
***In the shade** Pleated lampshades have a long history but have enjoyed a resurgence recently due to the colour and pattern they can provide, as seen in this living area (this page) by Brownlow Interior Design and this Studio Trio home (opposite).*

PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE) **CHRISTINE FRANCIS** (OPPOSITE) **PABLO VEIGA** STYLING (OPPOSITE) **JACK MILENKOVIC**

SHOP *the* DECADES



***From left** Telbix 'Lyman' **table lamp**, $179, Schots Home Emporium. Louis Poulsen 2/1 **stem fitting light**, $5480, Cult. Mid-century Italian Tole Lillies **chandelier**, $1100, Narissa Perks Lamps. Kelly Wearstler 'Covet' wide clip **bath sconce**, $1240, The Montauk Lighting Co. Gubi '9602' wicker **floor lamp**, from $1960, Cult. 'Valentine' **pendant light**, $429, Nook Collections.* >



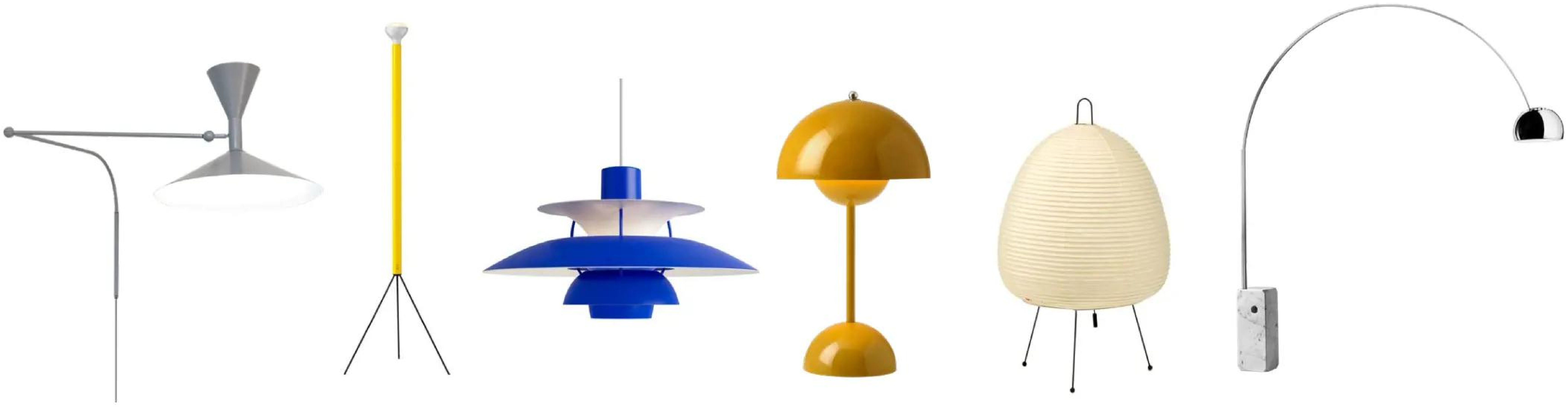
'50s – '60s

Back to the future

The '50s and '60s saw a Scandinavian design trend sweep our shores and it's a style that still has a hold over us: mid-century modern. "Lighting like the George Nelson saucer and the Artemide mushroom lamp reflect the era's futuristic aesthetic that developed as a result of advancements in science and technology," says Susan. These mushroom-cap silhouettes are still popular as table and floor lamps, especially in colourful hues. Says Marie, "A well-designed lamp should feel like a sculptural object by day and create atmosphere by night." Ultimately, that's the secret to the perfect lighting scheme – the addition of ambience. As Marie adds, "there's nothing cosier than lamp o'clock."

***Under the dome** Greg Natale opted for a striking pendant above the bed (this page) and a 'Pipistrello' table lamp, designed by Gae Aulenti in 1965, for a mid-century modern touch.*

SHOP *the* DECADES



***Top** &Tradition 'Flowerpot VP7' **pendant** in Light Blue, $750, Cult. **From left** Nemo Lighting 'Lampe De Marseille' **wall light**, $2560, Cult. Flos 'Luminator' **floor lamp** in Yellow, $1490, Living Edge. Louis Poulsen 'PH 5' **light** in Monochrome Blue, $1640, Cult. &Tradition 'Flowerpot VP9' portable **table lamp** in Mustard, $349, Cult. 'Akari 1A' **table lamp**, $695, Living Edge. Flos 'Arco' **floor lamp**, $5580, Living Edge.*

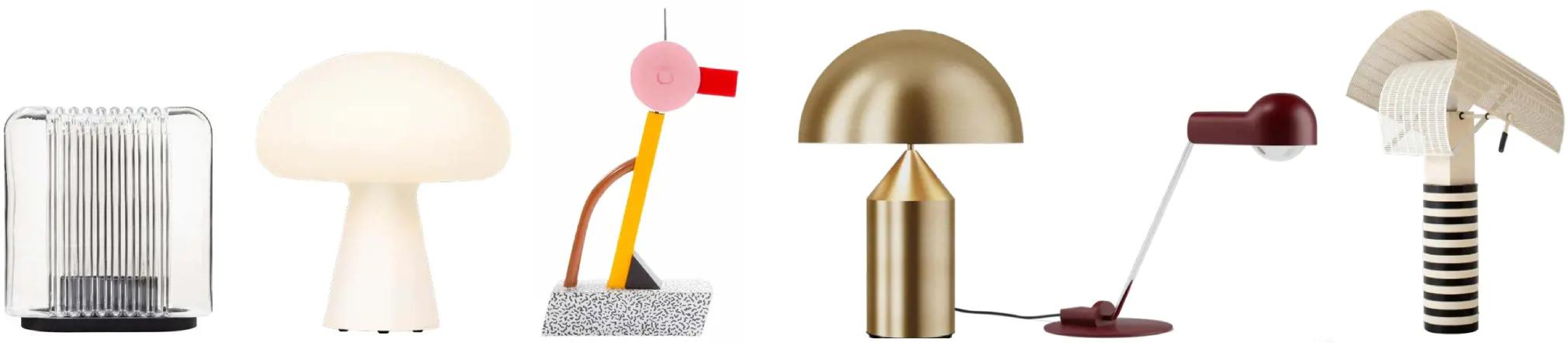
’70s – ’80s

Personality plus

The mushroom silhouette evolved in 1977 with the ‘Atollo’ table lamp by Vico Magistretti, which is still popular today and sold by Euroluce. And as the ’80s burst onto the scene, originality was officially in. “Light fittings had bold expression in a variety of colours and there was an emphasis on individuality,” shares Susan. “Recessed downlights became very popular, and lighting moved away from surface mounted lights to recessed and track mounted luminaires.” We’re still feeling the effects of the rise in downlights. While they serve a purpose, Marie says they have been overused. “Downlights have come a long way,” she says. “You can cut the impact of downlights by ensuring the LED light source is deep set into the fitting.”

***Style icon** Proof that it wasn’t all about downlights, the ‘Shogun’ table lamp (this page) was designed in the ’80s by Mario Botta for Artemide and features in this space by Greg Natale.*

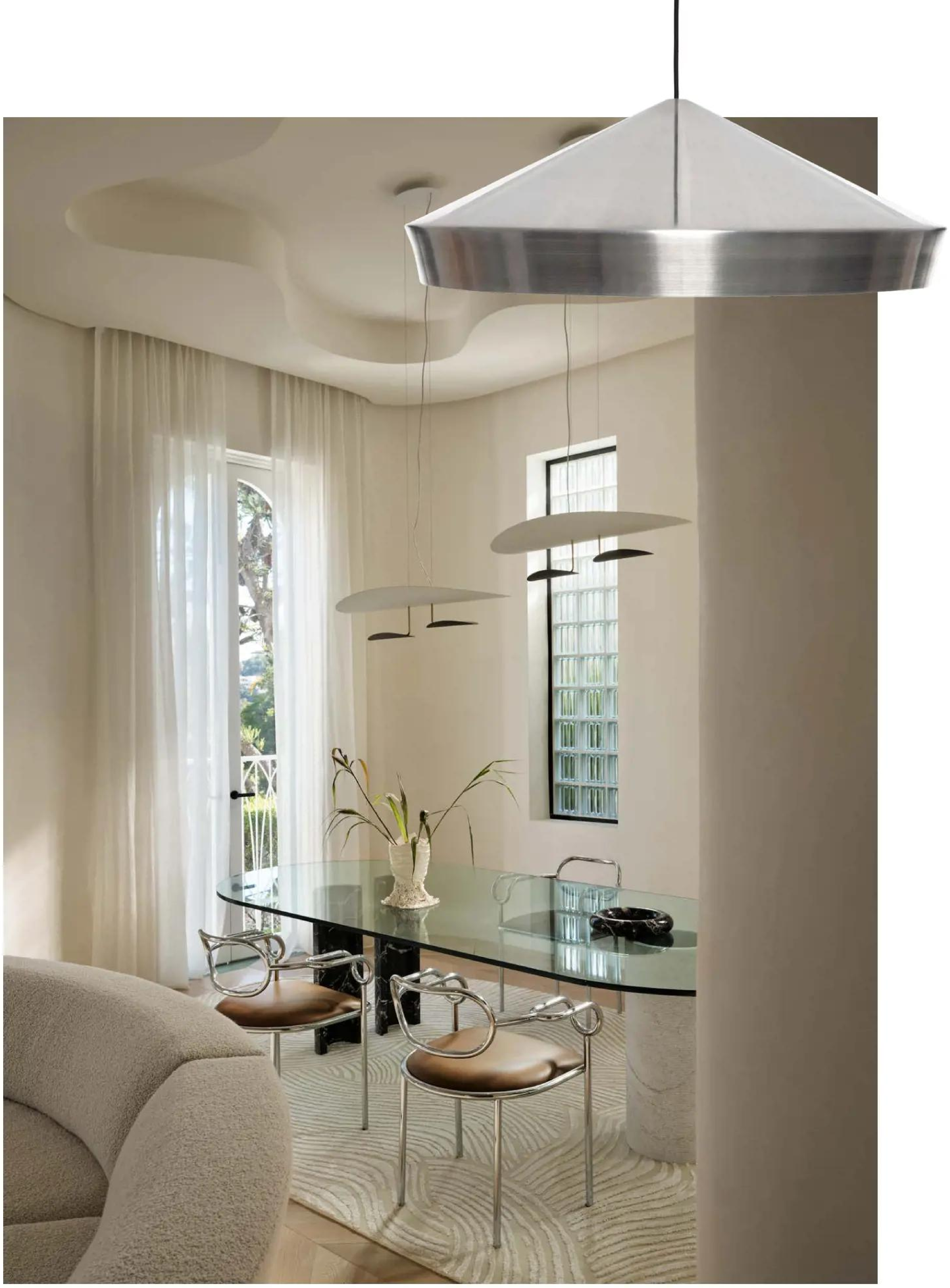
SHOP *the* DECADES



***From left** Karakter ‘Lari’* ***lamp**, $1860, Cult. Gubi ‘Obello’* ***lamp**, $399, Cult. Memphis Milano ‘Tahiti’* ***lamp**, $2733, Mobilia. ‘Atollo’* ***lamp** in Satin Gold, $3585, Living Edge. Karakter ‘Domo’* ***table lamp**, from $895, Cult. Artemide ‘Shogun’* ***table lamp**, $1775, Finnish Design Shop.*

>

PHOTOGRAPHY ANSON SMART



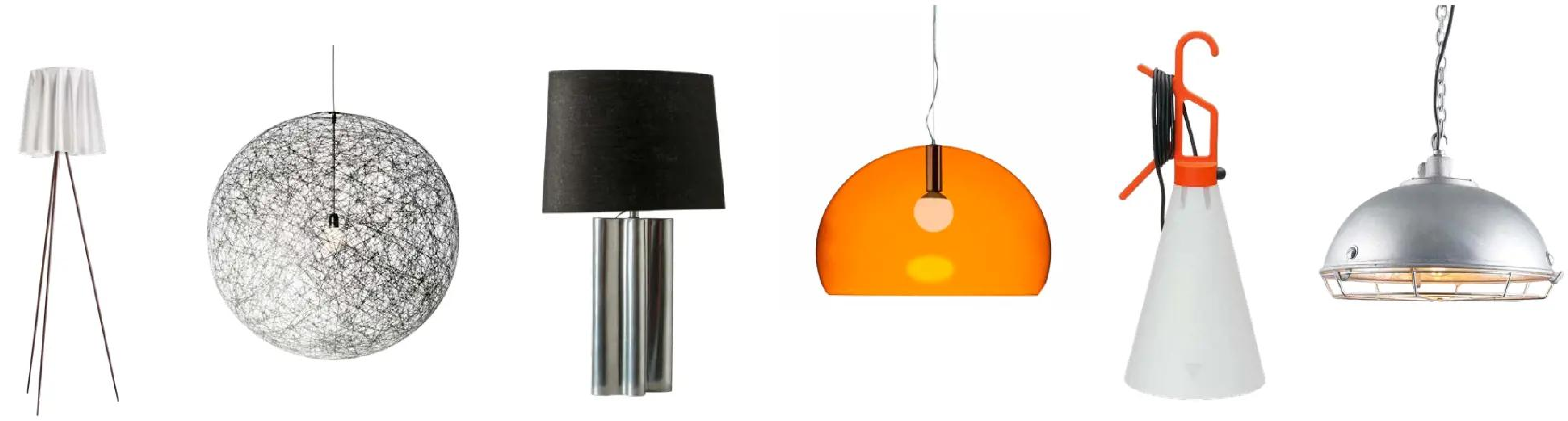
’90s – ’00s

Earth hour

At the turn of the century, halogen bulbs still influenced lighting design. These were small in size, meaning recessed lights could have a smaller diameter. “To minimise the number of openings in a ceiling,” says Susan, “pairing and grouping low voltage lights became popular.” She adds that this decade saw a rise in our environmental consciousness and this is something that The Montauk Lighting Co has also noticed. “There’s been a shift in style to more organic materiality and form,” says Marie. “From rattan, leather and plaster finishes combined with raw brass that ages beautifully over time, through to irregular shapes that create movement.” The key is in the materiality and form.

Clever curves *Greg Natale created a modern style with a twist (this page). The pendants are reminiscent of the ‘Aurora’ pendant by Perry King and Santiago Miranda for Arteluce.*

SHOP *the* DECADES



Top *Unbeaten flat* ***pendant lamp****, $1135, Living Edge.* ***From left*** *Philippe Stark for Flos ‘Rosy Angelis’* ***floor lamp****, $1345, Living Edge. Moooi ‘Random Light’* ***suspension lamp****, $1355, Space. ‘Gleam’* ***table lamp****, $295, Few & Far. Kartell ‘Big FL/Y’* ***suspension lamp****, $1905, Space. Konstantin Grcic for Flos ‘May Day’* ***table lamp****, $300, Living Edge. Steel industrial* ***pendant light****, $1698, Dunlin.*

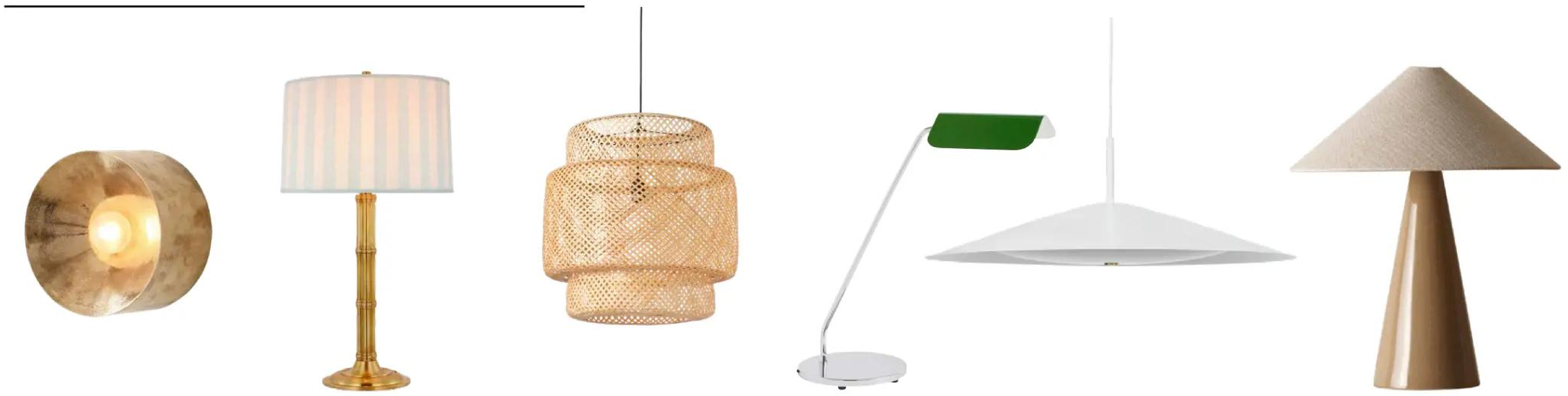
’10s – now

Future visions

In the 2010s we farewelled halogens and there was a widespread adoption of LED bulbs. This change was swift thanks to the reduction in wattage that LED lights provided. “Due to the small size of LED strip lights, they also replaced fluorescent tubes,” adds Susan. “This allowed for indirect lighting to be easily incorporated into coves and recesses.” Creative placements, such as under stair treads, kitchen cabinetry and bathroom mirrors, all serve purposes. In the future, Marie predicts bold designs, such as those in hotels and restaurants. “With access to so many incredible global brands in Australia we can all create something unique to us. Something that resonates and connects us to a special place or moment in time.”

Glow up *“A timeless scheme allows overhead lighting to be off in favour of wall lights, floor and table lamps,” says Marie. This is seen in Tamsin Johnson’s chic showroom (this page).*

SHOP *the* DECADES



From left *‘Anton’* ***light*** *in Polished Gunmetal, $1540, Volker Haug Studio. Ralph Lauren Home ‘Downing’ large* ***table lamp****, $2790, The Montauk Lighting Co. ‘Sinnerlig’* ***pendant lamp****, $99, Ikea. ‘Apex’* ***desk lamp*** *by John Tree in Emerald Green, $249, Hay. ‘Broad’* ***pendant*** *in White, from $653, Coco Flip. McMullin ‘Bonnie’* ***table lamp****, $449, Life Interiors.*

PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE) TAMSIN JOHNSON (OPPOSITE) ANSON SMART

Buyer's guide

ALL FIRED UP

Enjoy a slice of heaven with an outdoor pizza oven

Words **JULIA FAIRLEY**

Picture this scene: it's a balmy evening at home and you're feasting with friends and family. Your favourite playlist croons in the background, and mingling with the scent of blossoms is the aroma of sizzling pizzas, each freshly topped with ingredients by the very hands that devour them moments after they leave the oven. It's no wonder the allure of pizza ovens has captured a spot in our imaginations and landscape designs. It's not just for the delicious food they serve up, but also the traditions they create when loved ones cook and dine together, making memories for years to come.

PHOTOGRAPHY **HANNAH BLACKMORE**

Eternal flame *A built-in Elite pizza oven, with a handy supply of wood below, is a sculptural accent in this space by Harrison's Landscaping in Sydney (this page & opposite).* **>**

What types of pizza ovens are there?

Rewind thousands of years, and the ovens we see in Roman ruins were built by hand, brick by brick, or fashioned from clay to bake food and flatbreads – the culinary ancestors of pizza. In the 20th century, gas and electric pizza ovens joined charcoal- and wood-burning designs and today, we can choose from all four types – plus multi-fuel models. Unlike regular ovens, the naked flame inside charcoal-, gas- and wood-fuelled pizza ovens gives food a distinctive, smoky flavour that can only be achieved with fire. And while electric models don't replicate the flavour that pizza purists love, the convenience of their lightweight and compact size is undeniable.

Freestanding or built-in?

"It depends on how much space you have," says Stefano De Caro, chef and co-owner of Sydney's Cicerone Cucina Romana restaurant. Built-in pizza ovens start at around one square metre in size, while freestanding, portable models such as the Gozney 'Arc' are about half that size, so grab a tape measure and take stock of your outdoor area. Include at least 500mm for bench space, plus extra circulation room, in a well-ventilated spot ideally undercover. Short on space outside? Consider an electric pizza oven, such as the Ooni 'Volt 2'. Designed for indoor use, the compact model sits on your kitchen benchtop and reaches 450 degrees Celsius without a naked flame.

Charcoal, wood-fired or gas?

Now comes the fun part – flavour! Charcoal and wood pizza ovens need a steady fuel supply nearby, require a higher skill level and can produce their fair share of mess, though the flavour is unrivalled. "It's an ancient technique, cooking with fire, and that's what I love most," shares Salim Gafayri, a chef and caterer in Melbourne renowned for his Neapolitan-style pizza offerings. "The taste is always better with wood-fired pizza ovens," agrees Stefano. "For built-in pizza ovens, I'd do pure wood – it's more romantic." Gas pizza ovens balance flavour with contemporary convenience, more so if you have an existing gas bayonet in your outdoor area. If not, you can pick up a gas cylinder at a hardware store or service station.

SHOP *the* OVENS

'Arc XL' gas ***pizza oven****, $1499, Gozney.*

Polito 'Giotto' wood-fired ***pizza oven****, $4220, The Pizza Oven Store.*

Built-in stainless steel wood-fired ***pizza oven****, $1499, Smart.*

'Koda 2' gas-powered ***pizza oven****, $749, Ooni.*

'Volt 2' electric ***pizza oven****, $899, Ooni.*

'Pizzeria Pro' electric ***pizza oven****, $429, Cuisinart.*

PHOTOGRAPHY EVE WILSON

> “COOKING HOT AND FAST – 400 TO 450°C WITH A NICE, ROLLING FLAME – EQUALS NEAPOLITAN-STYLE PIZZAS. LOW AND SLOW – 320 TO 340°C WITHOUT TOO MUCH FLAME – GIVES NEW YORK-STYLE PIZZAS”
>
> **SALIM GAFAYRI**

Bon appétit *The Gozney ‘Dome’ freestanding pizza oven (this page) features in a project by landscape architects Peachy Green and architect Eliza Blair.* >

Light my fire There's ample bench space for food preparation next to this Xclusive Decor built-in pizza oven, in a stunning home designed by Three Birds Renovations (this page).

PHOTOGRAPHY CHRIS WARNES, COURTESY OF THREE BIRDS RENOVATIONS

Can pizza ovens cook other foods?

"I use my pizza oven for cooking pretty much everything, especially when I don't want a bad smell in the house," says Stefano with a laugh. "I cook a lot of vegetables, steak and whole fish, even chocolate pudding, and I bake flatbread to make sandwiches – they're insanely good." He adds that if you are planning on smoking beef short ribs or pork, ensure you buy a wood-fired pizza oven. While smaller ovens are perfect for cooking one pizza at a time, a bigger internal cavity will expand your culinary options. "If you want to cook something larger, like a roast lamb or three pizzas at once, the cavity of the oven plays a big part – you'll need a bigger design," says Salim. "And if you're baking bread, an oven door comes in handy." Regardless of the fare you create, make sure the model you choose is well-insulated. "The better the insulation, the better the heat retention of the oven and the better the results," says Salim. This is important for quality control and for safety reasons, particularly in households with young children.

> "THERE'S NOTHING BETTER THAN STARTING THE FIRE ON A SUNDAY WITH YOUR FAMILY AND BAKING THINGS TOGETHER IN THE PIZZA OVEN. I LOVE THAT" **STEFANO DE CARO**

Which pizza accessories do I need?

A launching peel to place your pizza on and a turning peel to rotate it are essential – the larger your oven, the longer the handles should be. "I recommend using a perforated launching peel, because when you pick up the pizza and slide it into the oven, it eliminates the excess flour or semolina," says Salim. He also suggests using the peel for cleaning: "Tie an old, damp tea towel around your turning peel and use it to reach inside your oven and give the stone base a good clean," he says. For prep, use a dough scraper, cutter and proofing tray. An infrared thermometer is also useful to measure the temperature of the oven's stone base, rather than the internal air temperature. And to enjoy the fruit of your labour? A pizza rocker or cutter and a serving board offer the final flourish.

SHOP *the* ACCESSORIES

*Bamboo **pizza peel** and **serving board**, from $60, Ooni.*

*'Balance' **turning peel**, $149, Gozney.*

*Oxo steel **pizza wheel**, $44 Peter's of Kensington.*

*Soga round divisible wood **pizza server food plate board**, $74.90, Myer.*

*Emile Henry 35cm ridged burgundy **pizza stone**, $219, Victoria's Basement.*

*Ooni flat 12" aluminium **pizza peel**, $79.95, David Jones.* HB

ROOMS *with a view*

Making the most of your backyard or alfresco area is as simple as creating outdoor 'rooms' that beckon with open-air ease

STORY SUE WHEELER

While we haven't permanently moved into our gardens just yet, alfresco spaces might soon need their own floor plans as we increasingly embrace multi-zone living. "People are happy spending more time at home and want to make their outdoor space as inviting and multi-purpose as possible, even with a small footprint," says Anna Williams, director of Your Beautiful Home. "More people are asking for a variety of zones in the backyard; destinations that create a sense of occasion in different areas and for different purposes." Whether your dream is a sunken fire pit or cool cabana, our experts provide you with all the inspiration you need to plan, create and decorate your own outdoor living spaces.

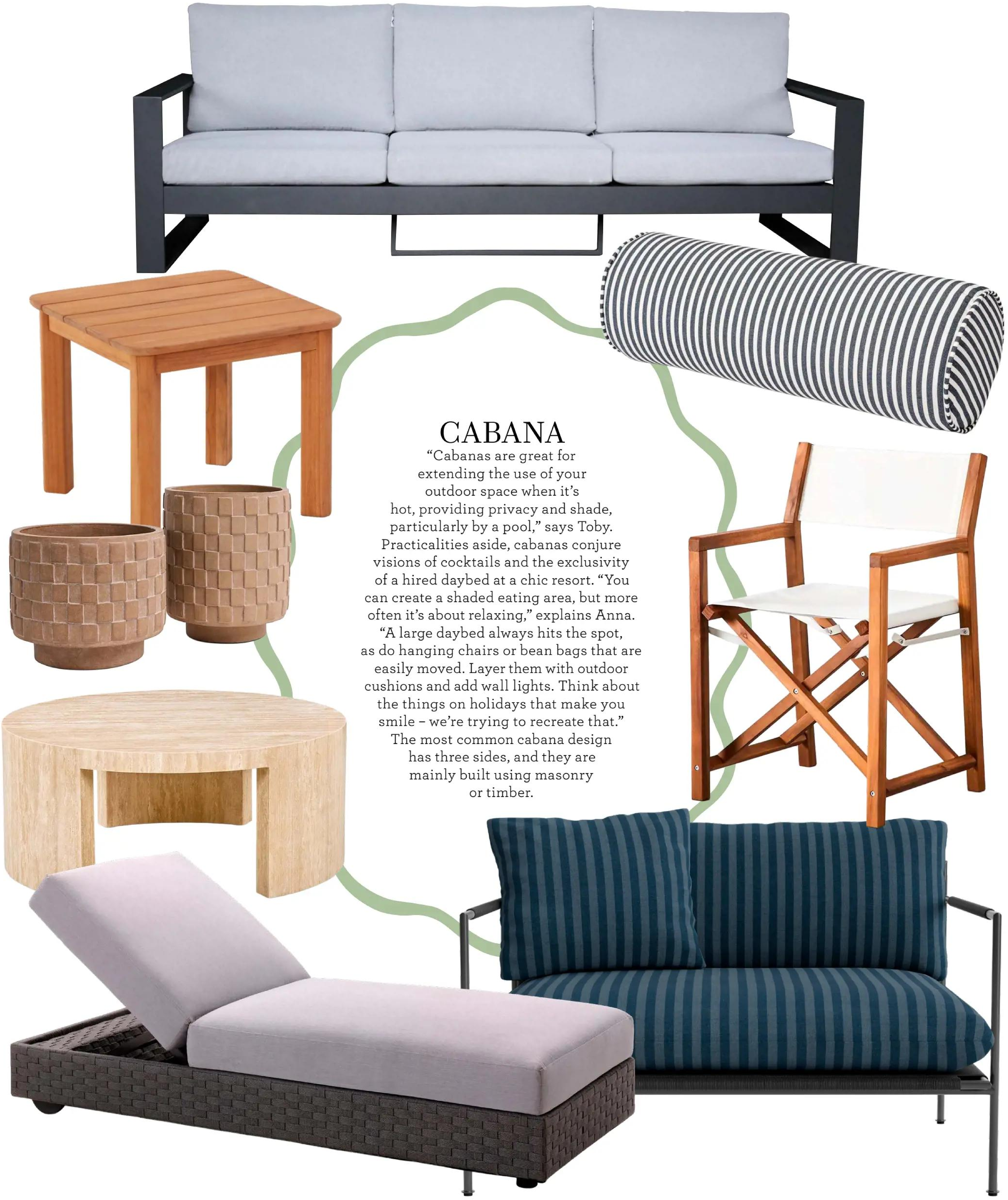
OUTDOOR KITCHEN

Promising extra cooking space, more mingling with your guests and no cooking odours inside, an outdoor kitchen elevates entertaining and turns everyday mealtimes into social occasions. "Begin by looking at the available space, your everyday lifestyle and how much you entertain," says Toby France, director of Exterior Architecture. "Be realistic about what you'll use. Just a simple barbecue and bench space? Or everything from a fridge to a teppanyaki grill?" Next, Toby says to consider design and materials. "Robust and low-maintenance materials, such as poured concrete, engineered stone and stainless steel, withstand the elements and suit the 'solid' looking aesthetic of an outdoor kitchen." And remember to ask professionals about drainage, fire safety, minimum clearances and ventilation.

PHOTOGRAPHY SUMMER PALM

Green screen *Exterior Architecture used an arched void for natural ventilation in this alfresco kitchen. It also highlights the verdant viburnum hedge boundary.* >

Splash zone *This custom Gold Coast cabana is made from recycled timber posts and upholstered with fabric from 3Beaches. The shady sanctuary is thanks to Nash Building + Interiors.*



CABANA

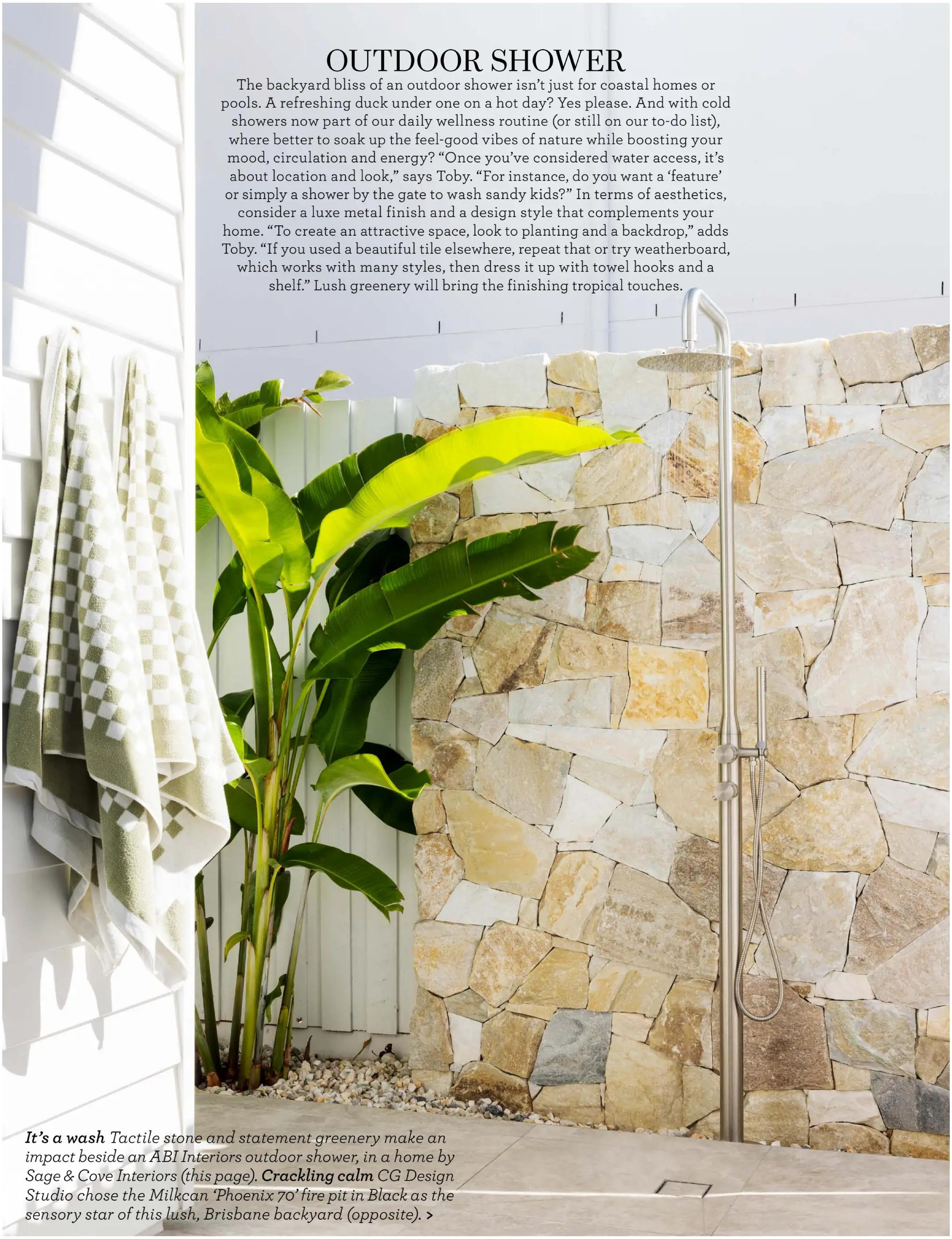
"Cabanas are great for extending the use of your outdoor space when it's hot, providing privacy and shade, particularly by a pool," says Toby. Practicalities aside, cabanas conjure visions of cocktails and the exclusivity of a hired daybed at a chic resort. "You can create a shaded eating area, but more often it's about relaxing," explains Anna. "A large daybed always hits the spot, as do hanging chairs or bean bags that are easily moved. Layer them with outdoor cushions and add wall lights. Think about the things on holidays that make you smile – we're trying to recreate that." The most common cabana design has three sides, and they are mainly built using masonry or timber.

Clockwise from top *'Burano' 3-seater outdoor* ***sofa*** *in Gunmetal, $1299, Harvey Norman. 'The* ***Bolster Pillow'*** *in Laurens Navy Stripe, $129, Business & Pleasure. 'Soho' director's* ***chair*** *in Natural, $230, Provincial Home Living. 'Malmo' outdoor* ***lounge chair*** *in Sunbrella Hayman Stripe Marine, $3645, Coco Republic. 'Jasper' outdoor reclining* ***sun lounge****, from $3740, King Living. Pier' outdoor round* ***coffee table****, $3195, MCM House. 'Cobram'* ***planters****, $79.95 each, Freedom. 'Sicily' outdoor* ***side table****, $399, Domayne.* **>**

PHOTOGRAPHY (OPPOSITE) **LOUISE ROCHE**

FIRE PIT

"As our concept of outdoor living expands, a designated fire pit zone has become another outdoor 'room' where friends and family can gather," says architect Adam Hampton, director of Hampton Architecture. "You don't need a lot of space and they're ideal for underused corners of the garden, adding focus and a meaningful area." While a sunken zone isn't necessary, Toby says it's ideal. "It has a more intimate and immersive feel, especially with in-built seating, and also offers protection from the wind." As for planning? Confirm requirements with your local council and check it's a safe distance from your home and other flammable structures. Choose materials and designs according to their specifications, then weigh up the various heat sources, from dry seasoned wood to ethanol.



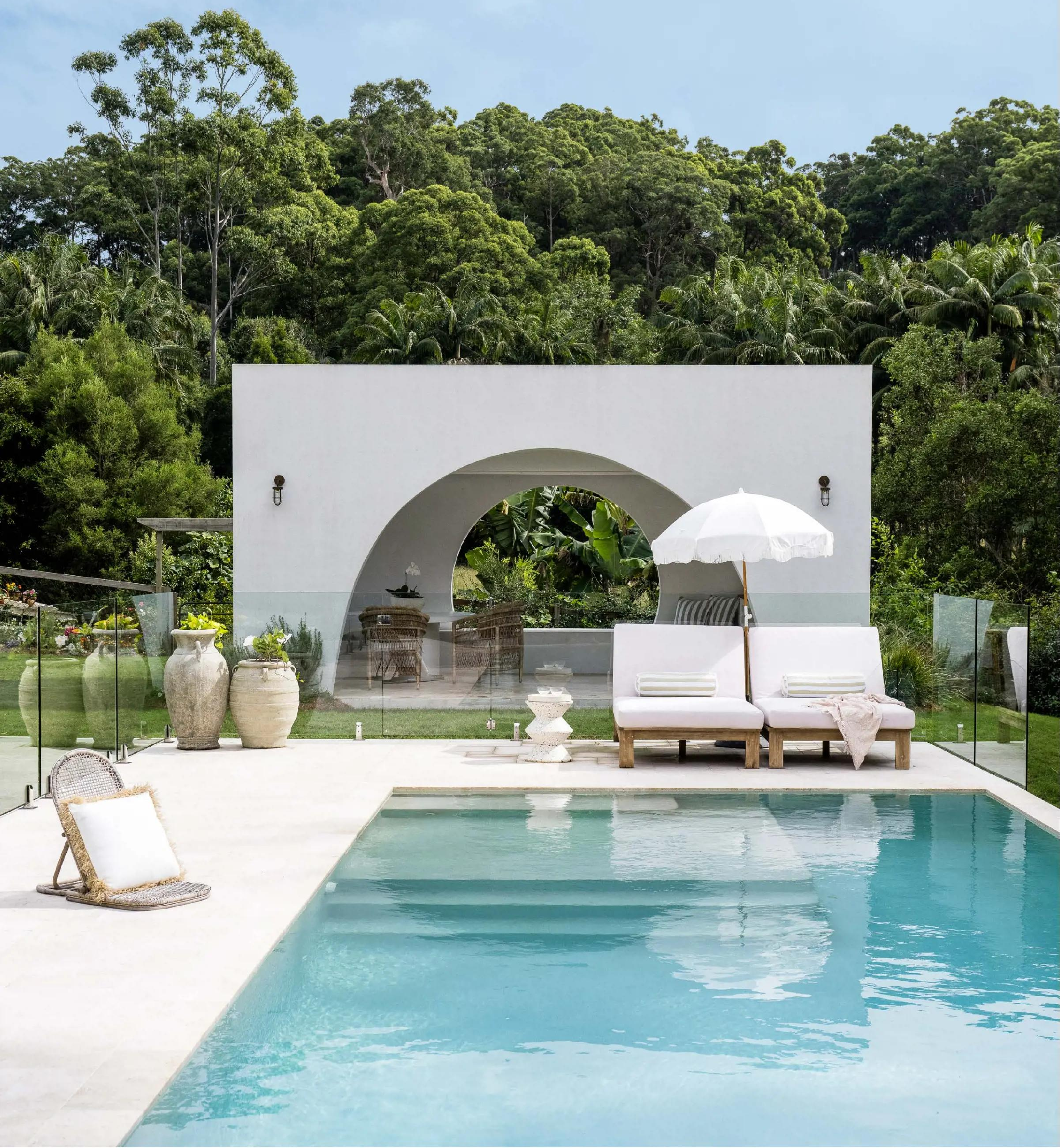
OUTDOOR SHOWER

The backyard bliss of an outdoor shower isn't just for coastal homes or pools. A refreshing duck under one on a hot day? Yes please. And with cold showers now part of our daily wellness routine (or still on our to-do list), where better to soak up the feel-good vibes of nature while boosting your mood, circulation and energy? "Once you've considered water access, it's about location and look," says Toby. "For instance, do you want a 'feature' or simply a shower by the gate to wash sandy kids?" In terms of aesthetics, consider a luxe metal finish and a design style that complements your home. "To create an attractive space, look to planting and a backdrop," adds Toby. "If you used a beautiful tile elsewhere, repeat that or try weatherboard, which works with many styles, then dress it up with towel hooks and a shelf." Lush greenery will bring the finishing tropical touches.

It's a wash *Tactile stone and statement greenery make an impact beside an ABI Interiors outdoor shower, in a home by Sage & Cove Interiors (this page).* ***Crackling calm*** *CG Design Studio chose the Milkcan 'Phoenix 70' fire pit in Black as the sensory star of this lush, Brisbane backyard (opposite).* **>**

PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE) **LOUISE ROCHE** (OPPOSITE) **HANNAH PUECHMARIN** STYLING (THIS PAGE) **KYLIE JACKES**

Summer loving *Built by Dall Designer Homes, the arched design of this pool house aids airiness without taking away from the wild beauty of the natural surrounds.*



POOL HOUSE

"Nothing embraces summer living like a pool house," says Adam. "Primarily a place to relax and entertain connected to the garden or pool, they often have a flexible, open-plan layout to serve a range of uses, such as guest accommodation." Typically, a pool house complements your home and relates to your landscape and pool setting. Adam suggests elevating a structure with "tall ceilings, stacked doors, retractable awnings and shutters". Look to resort-style living for interior inspiration, suggests Anna. "Light, with timber accents and neutral, textured fabrics, tropical fans and soft lighting. Think about storage and fixtures like speakers, too. Essentially, create a gorgeous destination in your garden and make it feel like an occasion to go out there." Built-in joinery and fold-down beds help to maximise space.

Clockwise from top left *'Botanic' outdoor* ***armchair****, $549, Domayne. 'Jardin' patio* ***umbrella*** *in Dusk Blue, $849, Basil Bangs. 'Martha'* ***hose holder*** *in Sage Green, $199, Freedom. 'Esta'* ***beach towel****, $99, Country Road. 'Keira' outdoor swivel egg* ***chair*** *in Natural, $799, Harvey Norman. 'Aruba'* ***cushion*** *in Soft Green Stripe, $39/45cm x 45cm, Early Settler. 'Botanic' outdoor* ***sunlounge****, $699, Domayne. 'Lorne'* ***tumblers****, $14.95 each, and* ***jug****, $49.95, Country Road. 'Luna' outdoor* ***chair*** *with seat cushion, from $1396, King Living. 'Hudson'* ***bar cart*** *in Olive, $359, Oz Design.*

PHOTOGRAPHY (OPPOSITE PAGE) **HANNAH PUECHMARIN** STYLING (OPPOSITE PAGE) **HAYLEY JENKIN**

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BEAUTIFUL FOOD

EASY AND DELICIOUS FOOD TO SHARE WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

CLASSIC
CRUNCHY
COLESLAW
See page 168

PHOTOGRAPHY **JOHN PAUL URIZAR** STYLING **MICHELE CRANSTON**

COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS
PAGE 162 →

COUNTDOWN *to Christmas*

’Tis soon the season to be jolly, so to help you plan ahead, we bring you a festive, flavour-filled menu from *The Christmas Collection*, a delightful new cookbook by *The Australian Women’s Weekly*

STICKY PEACH
& PEPPER-GLAZED HAM
See page 164

STICKY PEACH & PEPPER-GLAZED HAM

SERVES 20

Prep + cook time *1 hour 40 minutes*

1 tsp Sichuan peppercorns
1 tbsp medley peppercorns
1 tsp fennel seeds
2 tsp dried chilli flakes
1⅓ cups (430g) peach jam
1 tbsp grated ginger
⅓ cup (115g) honey
½ cup (110g) brown sugar, firmly packed
¼ cup (60ml) Chinese cooking wine (shao hsing) or dry sherry
2 tbsp rice wine vinegar
8kg whole ham leg
3 long sprigs rosemary
Caramelised peaches
6 yellow peaches (900g), halved, stones removed
2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
¼ cup (55g) light brown sugar, firmly packed

1 Place peppercorns, fennel seeds and chilli flakes in a mortar and pestle (or spice grinder) and lightly crush. Place in a medium saucepan with jam, ginger, honey, sugar, cooking wine and vinegar; bring to the boil. Reduce heat. Simmer for 5 minutes or until thickened. Remove from heat. Cool. Reserve ⅓ cup of the glaze.
2 Place oven shelf in the lowest position. Preheat oven to 180°C.
3 Using a small, sharp knife, cut the ham rind about 12cm from the shank end of the leg. Remove rind from ham by sliding your hand between the rind and the fat layer. (Rind can be used to cover the cut surface of the ham to keep it moist during storage.) Score the ham fat at 2cm intervals and cover the hock with foil.
4 Line a large oven tray or roasting pan with baking paper. Place ham on top and brush generously with the glaze. Roast ham, basting several times with glaze (picking up the caramelised glaze from around the ham) to build up a golden colour, for 1 hour or until the ham is golden brown all over.
5 Meanwhile, make the caramelised peaches: heat a non-stick frying pan over medium heat. Brush peach halves with oil; press cut sides into sugar. Cook, cut-side down, for 2 minutes or until caramelised.
6 Transfer ham to a platter and decorate with rosemary sprigs. Serve sliced ham with caramelised peaches.
TIP Glaze can be made up to 1 week ahead.

CLASSIC ROAST POTATOES WITH ROSEMARY SALT

SERVES 4

Prep + cook time *1 hour 15 minutes*

1.2kg pontiac potatoes, peeled, halved
⅓ cup (80ml) extra virgin olive oil
50g butter
8 cloves garlic, unpeeled
1 rosemary sprig
Rosemary salt
2 tbsp sea salt flakes
1 tbsp rosemary leaves, finely chopped

1 Preheat oven to 220°C.
2 Boil, steam or microwave potatoes for 5 minutes; drain. Pat dry with paper towel; cool 10 minutes. Gently rake rounded side of potatoes with the tines of a fork.
3 Place par-cooked potatoes, cut-side down, in a single layer, on an oiled oven tray. Brush with oil and dot with butter; add garlic and rosemary. Roast, brushing occasionally with oil mixture on the tray, for 50 minutes or until potatoes are browned and crisp.
4 Meanwhile, make rosemary salt: Combine the salt and rosemary; season to taste with freshly ground black pepper.
5 Serve potatoes and garlic sprinkled with rosemary salt. >

CLASSIC ROAST POTATOES
WITH ROSEMARY SALT
See opposite

EASY SLOW-ROASTED
TURKEY WITH STUFFING
See opposite

EASY SLOW-ROASTED TURKEY WITH STUFFING

SERVES 12

Prep + cook time *5 hours 30 minutes (+ standing)*

4.5kg turkey
50cm square muslin
100g butter, melted
8 thin slices (120g) prosciutto
8 baby red apples, halved crossways
¼ cup (60ml) maple syrup
8 sprigs thyme
40g butter, extra
¼ cup (35g) plain flour
⅓ cup (80ml) port or red wine
2 cups (500ml) chicken stock
Cranberry sauce, to serve

Stuffing
120g butter, melted
110g jar caramelised onion relish
4 slices (60g) prosciutto, trimmed, chopped
½ cup (55g) instant polenta
5 cups (350g) day-old coarse breadcrumbs
2 eggs, beaten lightly
1 cup flat-leaf parsley, chopped
1½ cups (200g) dried cranberries
1 cup (160g) sliced natural almonds, toasted

1 Make stuffing: combine ingredients in a large bowl; season with salt and freshly ground black pepper.
2 Preheat oven to 150°C. Discard neck from turkey.
3 Fill neck cavity loosely with stuffing; secure skin over opening with toothpicks. Fill large cavity loosely with half the remaining stuffing. Tie legs together with kitchen string, then tuck wing tips under body.
4 Place turkey on an oiled wire rack in a medium flameproof roasting pan. Dip muslin in melted butter and place it over turkey. Pour 1 litre (4 cups) water into pan, then cover dish with a double layer of foil. Roast for 4 hours.
5 Meanwhile, place prosciutto slices, side by side and slightly overlapping, on a large sheet of plastic wrap to form a 26cm x 30cm rectangle. Place the remaining stuffing lengthways in the centre of the prosciutto; lightly press the mixture into a log shape. Bring bottom edge of long side over the stuffing, then using the plastic wrap as a guide, roll up firmly. Refrigerate.
6 Place apples on a medium oven tray; brush all over with maple syrup. Sprinkle with salt flakes and top with thyme.
7 Remove the foil and muslin from turkey, then brush with pan juices. Increase oven to 200°C. Roast for a further 30 minutes, brushing occasionally, or until turkey is golden brown. Remove from oven. Cover and stand for 30 minutes.
8 Meanwhile, roast the prosciutto-wrapped stuffing roll and apples for 30 minutes.
9 Drain turkey pan juices into a large jug, then skim fat from top and discard; you need 2 cups of pan juices for the gravy. Place roasting pan over medium heat; melt extra butter. Add flour; cook, stirring, until well browned. Stir in port, reserved juices and the stock. Cook, stirring, until gravy boils and thickens. Strain into a serving jug.
10 Serve turkey with cranberry sauce, gravy, apples and prosciutto-wrapped stuffing roll. >

PEACHY ASPARAGUS & MOZZARELLA SALAD

SERVES 4

***Prep + cook time** 25 minutes*

2 bunches asparagus (340g), trimmed
1½ tbsp chilli oil
4 medium peaches (600g), halved, stones removed (see Tips)
4 medium heirloom tomatoes (600g), sliced if large, halved or quartered if small (see Tips)
250g buffalo mozzarella, torn (see Tips)
½ cup small basil leaves
1 tbsp white wine vinegar

Pistachio mint pesto

½ cup (70g) pistachios
1½ cups mint leaves
1 cup flat-leaf parsley leaves
1 clove garlic, crushed
2 tsp finely grated lemon rind
2 tsp lemon juice
½ cup (125ml) extra virgin olive oil

1 Make the pistachio mint pesto: blend or process ingredients until smooth; season to taste.

2 Place asparagus and 1 tablespoon of the chilli oil in a medium bowl; toss to coat. Season.

3 Cook asparagus, turning once, on a heated chargrill pan or barbecue for 10 minutes or until asparagus is tender. Cook peaches for the last 2 minutes, cooking until golden.

4 To serve, layer peaches and tomatoes on a platter, then top with asparagus, mozzarella and basil; drizzle with vinegar, remaining chilli oil and the pesto.

TIPS We use yellow peaches, but choose whatever looks best, or use a mix of yellow and white. Remember to keep the tomatoes out of the fridge so the flavour is not dulled. Buffalo mozzarella has a tangier flavour than cow's milk mozzarella, which can be used instead if you prefer.

CLASSIC CRUNCHY COLESLAW

SERVES 8

***Prep** 15 minutes*

1 small savoy cabbage (approx 1kg), finely shredded
250g green beans, finely chopped
6 green onions, thinly sliced
½ cup (70g) slivered almonds, toasted
100g fried noodles

Dressing

¼ cup (60ml) white vinegar
1½ tbsp caster sugar
1 tbsp salt-reduced soy sauce
2 tsp sesame oil (optional)
½ cup (125ml) extra virgin olive oil

1 Make dressing: place all ingredients in a screw-top jar; shake well.

2 Combine cabbage, beans and green onion in a large bowl; mix well.

3 Just before serving, toss through almonds and the dressing. Sprinkle over fried noodles, toss gently.

TIPS If you are transporting this salad, pack the almonds, noodles and dressing separately; toss together just before serving. For a presentation idea, we reserved a couple of the nicer looking outer leaves from the cabbage to line the salad bowl. >

PEACHY ASPARAGUS
& MOZZARELLA SALAD
See opposite

ESPRESSO & WATTLESEED EGGNOG

MAKES 1.25 LITRES (5 CUPS)
***Prep time** 10 minutes*

Blend 2 cups milk, 1 cup thickened cream, ¼ cup caster sugar, 3 eggs, ⅔ cup brandy, ½ cup chilled espresso coffee and 1 tsp ground wattleseed until smooth. Pour eggnog over crushed ice in glasses; top with extra ground wattleseed and a pinch of ground nutmeg. Serve immediately.

LEMONGRASS LEMONADE

MAKES 1.625 LITRES (6½ CUPS)
***Prep time** 5 minutes (+ refrigeration)*

Place 4 thinly sliced kaffir lime leaves, 4 x 15cm finely chopped lemongrass stalks and ½ cup lemon juice in a high-powered blender; blend until smooth. Combine lemongrass mixture and 1.5 litres (6 cups) chilled lemonade in a large measuring jug. Cover; refrigerate for 1 hour or until chilled. Strain into a large serving jug; discard pulp. Serve over crushed ice.

SPICED PEAR CIDER

MAKES 2 LITRES (8 CUPS)
***Prep time** 10 minutes (+ standing)*

Combine 50g peeled ginger, finely grated, and ½ cup store-bought sugar syrup in a large measuring jug; stand for 10 minutes. Top with 4 x 355ml bottles chilled pear cider, ½ cup bourbon and 2 tbsp lime juice; stir until well combined. Pour cider mixture over crushed ice into glasses. Garnish with pear wedges just before serving, and if you like, with cinnamon stick.

RASPBERRY & THYME GIN SOUR

MAKES APPROX 400ML (SERVES 4)
***Prep time** 10 minutes*

Place ½ cup gin, 2 lightly beaten egg whites, 2 tbsp lemon juice, 2 tbsp store-bought sugar syrup, ⅛ tsp Australian orange bitters, 1 tbsp lemon thyme leaves and 8 fresh raspberries in a cocktail shaker. Add a handful of ice cubes; secure lid and shake until well combined. Strain into chilled serving glasses. Garnish with extra raspberries on a cocktail skewer and sprinkle with extra lemon thyme leaves. **TIP** Use Angostura bitters instead of the Australian orange bitters, if you like. >

LEMONGRASS LEMONADE
See opposite

RASPBERRY & THYME GIN SOUR
See opposite

SPICED PEAR CIDER
See opposite

ESPRESSO & WATTLESEED EGGNOG
See opposite

CHOCOLATE HAZELNUT
ICE-CREAM PANDORO
See opposite

CHOCOLATE HAZELNUT ICE-CREAM PANDORO

SERVES 10

Prep + ***cook time*** *25 minutes (+ freezing)*

You will need to start this recipe a day ahead

700g pandoro
1 cup (330g) chocolate-hazelnut spread
¼ cup (80g) raspberry jam
1 litre (4 cups) salted caramel ice-cream
250g raspberries
¼ cup (40g) icing sugar

1 Freeze pandoro for at least 2 hours or until firm.

2 Turn pandoro upside down on a board. Using a long, thin, sharp knife held at an angle, cut out a 12cm round from the base; the round should look like a wide cone. Cut a cavity in the pandoro as neatly as possible, leaving a 2cm-thick wall all around. Remove the centre of the pandoro. (As the pandoro is star-shaped, it will be thinner in some parts and thicker in others.) Keep the 12cm round. Reserve pandoro offcuts for another use (see Tips).

3 Use a small palette knife to spread the chocolate-hazelnut spread over the inside wall of the pandoro. Spoon jam into the base. Freeze for 30 minutes.

4 Meanwhile, remove ice-cream from the freezer to soften for 15 minutes.

5 Spoon ice-cream into the centre of the pandoro a little at a time. Replace the reserved pandoro round. Cover and freeze for 4 hours or overnight until firm.

6 Remove pandoro from freezer 15 minutes before serving. When ready to serve, decorate with raspberries and dust with sifted icing sugar.

TIPS Use pandoro offcuts to make trifles, Christmas truffles or bread and butter pudding. This is a dessert that will make people smile (and kids squeal). It presents as an ordinary pandoro, and while there's nothing wrong with that, hidden inside our version is a treasure chest of chocolate-hazelnut spread and caramel ice-cream.

THE AUSTRALIAN Women's Weekly
The CHRISTMAS COLLECTION
TEST KITCHEN TESTED
FESTIVE RECIPES to CELEBRATE the SEASON

EAT & BE MERRY

This is an edited extract from 'The Australian Women's Weekly: The Christmas Collection', published by Are Media, $45. HB

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PHOTOGRAPHY **ALANA LANDSBERRY** STYLING **KATE NIXON** FLOWERS **MANDALAY FLOWERS**

Essential hosting handbook

MAKING MERRY

The secret to a magical and memorable Christmas is all in the sensory touches and attention to detail. From furniture placement and the perfect playlists to emergency gifts, consider this your official party planning guide

STORY **BRITTANY SMITH**

Glenn Barkley
CERAMICS AN ATLAS OF FORMS
CRESSIDA CAMPBELL

A HOLLY, JOLLY WELCOME

Greeting guests is simple – it's the moments directly following that are key. Once you've relieved people of coats or hats, switch into guide mode. Encourage guests to move into your home, so they end up right where you'll be entertaining – this helps avoid awkward hovering – then offer everyone a welcome drink.

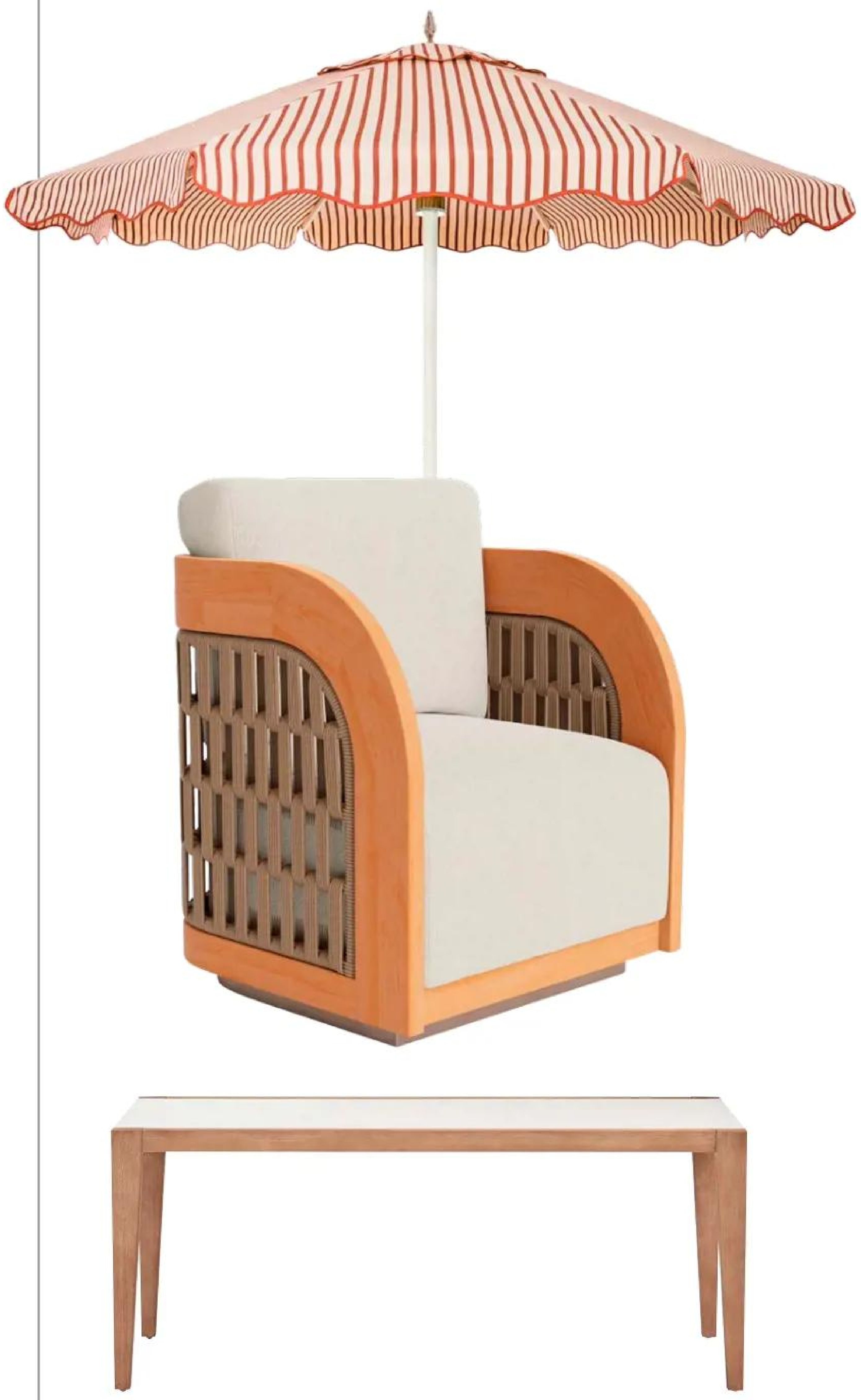
THE FURNITURE CLAUS

No matter whether your soiree is a formal dinner party or casual drinks and nibbles, your decor will help set the tone. Furniture placement silently communicates this to guests, showing them where to sit or stand and conveying any etiquette, and seating arrangements play a big part in encouraging or stifling chitchat. “The biggest mistake I see when people set up for guests? Lining seating up against the walls like a waiting room,” says *HB* editor-in-chief, Elle Lovelock. “Pull armchairs and sofas closer, so people naturally face one another – it makes chatting so much easier.” If you have multiple zones in an open-plan space, try to delineate them. Anna DiNapoli, head of interior design at Coco Republic, says to “Define zones with rugs, planters or lighting – placing the dining area closer to cooking zones,” with your lounge arranged to maximise conversation and views. Finally, use the right mix of furniture for the event you are hosting. “Low-profile dining tables or ‘chat-height’ tables can double as both dining and lounge-friendly solutions,” explains Anna. “Dining chairs are ideal for eating, but less suited to long hours of lounging. Lounge seating, on the other hand, is deeper, cushioned and designed for comfort.”

Crowded house *Overflowing presents and plentiful plates look absolutely magical. Designer Carlene Duffy prefers to take the party outside, decorating her home with fresh greenery (this page), while stylist Alexandra Brownlow scatters gifts with uniform wrapping and ribbons throughout her living room (opposite).*

CREATE AN *outdoor oasis*

Embrace your outside area as a space to entertain by styling it with alfresco dining and lounging furniture, garden umbrellas in complementary hues and an outdoor rug for a soft feel underfoot.



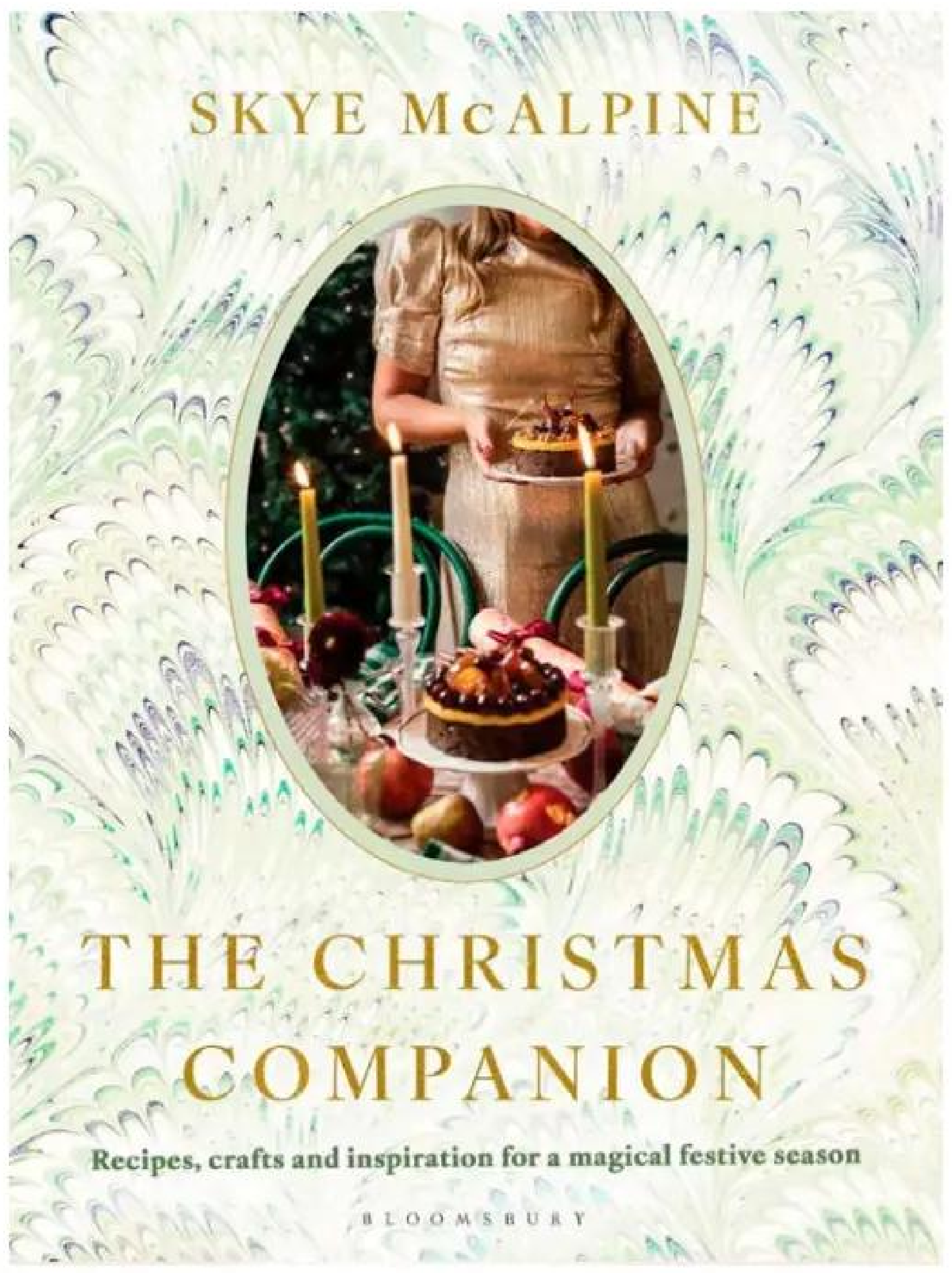
From top *Coco Republic x Business & Pleasure Co ‘Resort Market’* ***outdoor umbrella*** *in Monaco Le Sirenuse Stripe, from $2999, and ‘Riverina’* ***outdoor chair*** *in Bora Ivory, $1295, both Coco Republic. ‘Monument’* ***outdoor bar table*** *with White Concrete Top, $1699 Domayne.* **>**

PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE) **LYNDEN FOSS** (OPPOSITE) **KATE ENNO** STYLING (THIS PAGE) **CARLENE DUFFY** ARTWORK (OPPOSITE) **‘STRAIGHT TO YOU’ BY TODD HUNTER**

EMERGENCY *stocking stuffers*

It's every host's worst nightmare – an oversight, a miscount or an unexpected guest that leads to… an invitee without a gift. Thankfully, we have a simple trick to ensure you – and your loved ones – are never left empty-handed. Just remember the three Cs: candles, chocolates and coffee table books. These gifts are perfect to have up your sleeve, wrapped and ready to go. The three Cs work well because people of all ages and backgrounds tend to enjoy at least one and they're all available in a wide range of prices, so you can keep it simple or gift a little luxury.

ESTABLISHED 1915
HAIGH'S CHOCOLATES
DARK SELECTION


SKYE McALPINE
THE CHRISTMAS COMPANION
Recipes, crafts and inspiration for a magical festive season
BLOOMSBURY

From top *Truffle* ***chocolate selection,*** *$133.50/660g, Haigh's Chocolates. 'The Christmas Companion'* ***book*** *by Skye McAlpine, $55, Booktopia. 'Alchemy' soy* ***outdoor candle*** *in Mandarin & Neroli, $119/1kg, Circa.*

PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE) **BRIGID ARNOTT** (OPPOSITE) **PABLO VEIGA** STYLING (THIS PAGE) **CORINA KOCH** (OPPOSITE) **JACK MILENKOVIC** ARTWORK (OPPOSITE) 'ED THE RUSSELL II' BY CATHERINE WATKINS

FESTIVE FARE

When you're hosting, it can be easy to focus on the big items, but that can sometimes leave the bare necessities neglected. Stock up on a popular variety of white wine, red wine and beer, plus classic party snacks such as delicious dips, a cheese board, bowls of olives and potato chips. Little offerings ensure that no one is left hungry or thirsty for even a moment. And don't forget water! "Have a jug of sparkling water, with fruit like oranges in it, that people can sip throughout the day," suggests Carlene.

SET THE SCENT

Your home's aroma is often the first impression guests get, so try to make it a good one. Elle says there are two approaches: "One is to have a signature scent throughout your home. The other is to create a scent journey from room to room." For the latter, marketing director at Circa, Waffa Nakad, says, "The key is to choose fragrances that feel connected by the atmosphere they create… lighter and fresher scents for social areas or warmer, more comforting fragrances for relaxing zones." For a bonus, choose odour- and mosquito-repelling scents like Circa's 'Alchemy' range.

Food for thought *Even functional furniture items look considered with a selection of drinks and fresh aromatics on display (this page). Tempting produce can also hint at the tantalising tastes to come, as seen in this kitchen and walk-in pantry, designed by Studio Trio (opposite). Another benefit? The natural, earthy aroma.* **>**

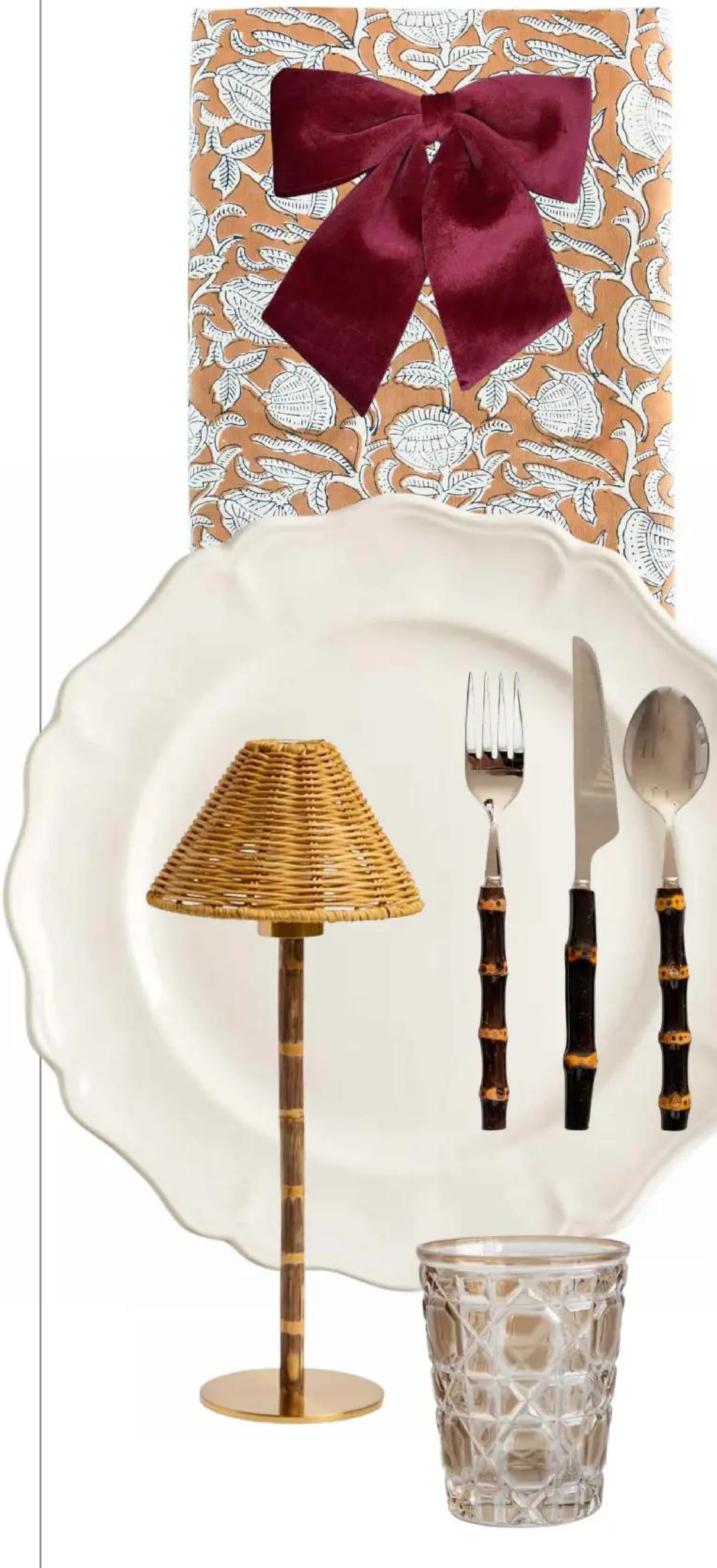
SPRINKLE OF CHEER

Regardless of whether your interior style is minimalist, maximalist or somewhere in between, Christmas is the one time of year that you'll want to go all out. "Whatever the theme, this is the time for abundance," shares Elle. "If you don't decorate the house, the table is one contained area to express your personality." She suggests accenting your dining table with festive foods people can pick at, such as Vienna almonds and Christmas mince pies for traditional finger food, or fresh fruit for a more casual, coastal appeal. "You can elevate decor with red fruit, like cherries, dusted with edible gold leaf. It looks phenomenal and special," she adds. Carlene also recommends a natural touch. She likes to scatter low vases down the middle of long tables, filled with pops of colourful florals; but less is more. "You don't want anything too big – it needs to be functional so you can see each other and have room to eat," she says. For Carlene, the most essential components in a festive tablescape are your napkins and table linen. "A great tablecloth sets the foundation," she advises. "If you have a fabulous tablecloth, the hard part is done and everything else is a bonus." As they say, start from the bottom and work your way up.

Dining delights *Interior designer Kate Nixon serves up a feast of style at Christmas with tableware from her Sydney store (this page). Deep plum tones enrich the warm neutrals and graceful golds on interior designer Adelaide Bragg's festive tabletop (opposite). Velvet bows are perfect for adding a special touch to place settings.*

THREE CHEERS *to sipping in style*

Gorgeous glassware is intrinsically celebratory, so dust off your crystal and use it to serve guests drinks, regardless of whether their tipple is wine or water. For fun cocktail recipes, flip to page 171.



From top *'Marbella'* ***tablecloth*** *in Tobacco, $175/280cm x 150cm, Walter G. Velvet* ***bow*** *in Burgundy, $37.95, My Christmas. 'Heirloom'* ***plate****, $19, Pottery Barn.* ***Cutlery*** *in Burnt Bamboo, $80/5-piece set, Luxe & Beau.* ***Lamp*** *in Bamboo/ Rattan, $199/large, Alfresco Emporium. 'Geometric'* ***tumbler*** *in Brown, $100/set of 4, Luxe & Beau.* **>**

PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE) **ALANA LANDSBERRY** (OPPOSITE) **MARTINA GEMMOLA**
STYLING (THIS PAGE) **KATE NIXON** (OPPOSITE) **TESS NEWMAN-MORRIS**

LAST-MINUTE *pamper packages*

If there's a chance your guests may settle in for the long haul and perhaps stay overnight – and what a compliment if they do – ensure you're prepared in advance by having freshly laundered sets of towels at the ready. Some small pamper packages consisting of basic toiletries and guest soaps also make for a welcoming gesture. Try presenting everything together, tied with a ribbon or in a woven basket. And if the aim is to channel a high-end hotel, add a spare fluffy bath robe to their pamper pack. Along with crisp, fresh sheets gracing your guest bed and a vase of blooms on the bedside, these thoughtful details will seal your status as 'the hostess with the mostest' for many years to come.

From top *'Paros' ribbed* ***bath towel*** *in Sand, $59.95, Aura Home. Waterford crystal 'Markham'* ***vase****, $172/23cm, Amazon. Penhaligon's 'Halfeti'* ***body and hand wash****, $98/500ml, and 'Halfeti'* ***body and hand lotion****, $107/500ml, both David Jones.*

SEASONAL SOUNDTRACK

All hosts hope to avoid awkward silences, but remember, lulls in conversation are a natural occurrence. Gentle background music can help fill the void. For a playlist that complements your event, match the tempo of the music to the occasion and time of day. Evoke wonder and magic on Christmas Eve with scores from *Home Alone* and Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*. In the morning, keep the sonic experience merry and bright with choral arrangements of classic carols before moving on to the big, swinging sound of festive jazz songs over a long lunch.

CLEAN & CLEAR

For a guest-ready bathroom, go back to basics. As Carlene admits, "When you're using a guest bathroom, you don't want to see too much sign of life." Wipe up surfaces, empty the laundry basket if you have one in the room and fold a fresh hand towel (extra points for festive prints). Simply switching up the aroma can have a big impact. "Give bathrooms a special treatment with a fresh and clean scent in hand washes, lotions and diffusers," says Elle, who favours Circa White Tea & Wild Mint.

Keep it simple *Focusing on cleanliness and little luxuries in good quality soaps, lotions, fragrances or scented candles is the best approach for guest bathrooms. A vase of fresh flowers is the only decor needed in this powder room by Stritt Design & Construction (this page), as the finishes and material palette are oh so luxe.*

PHOTOGRAPHY **SIMON WHITBREAD** STYLING **LUCY GOUGH**

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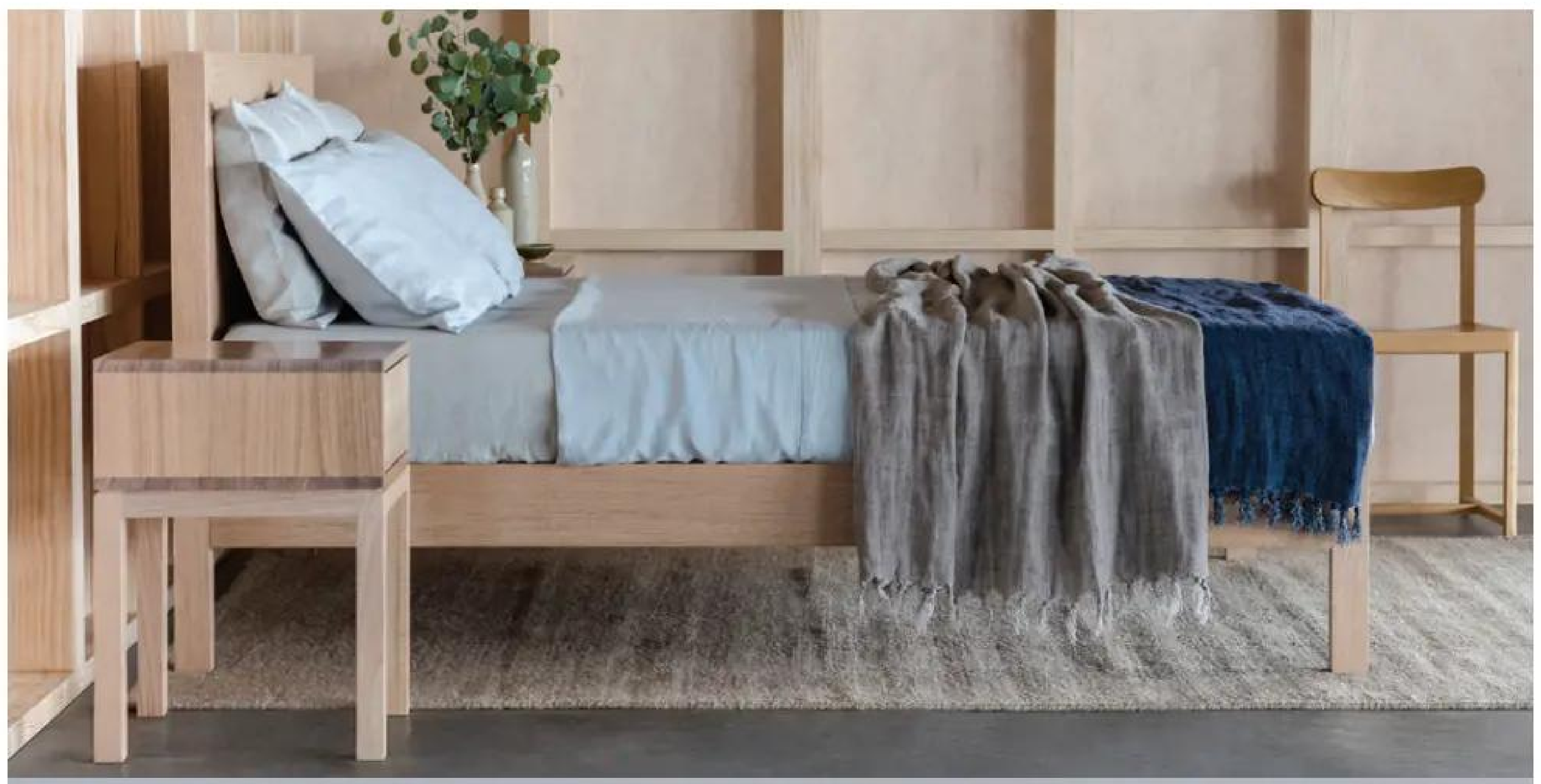

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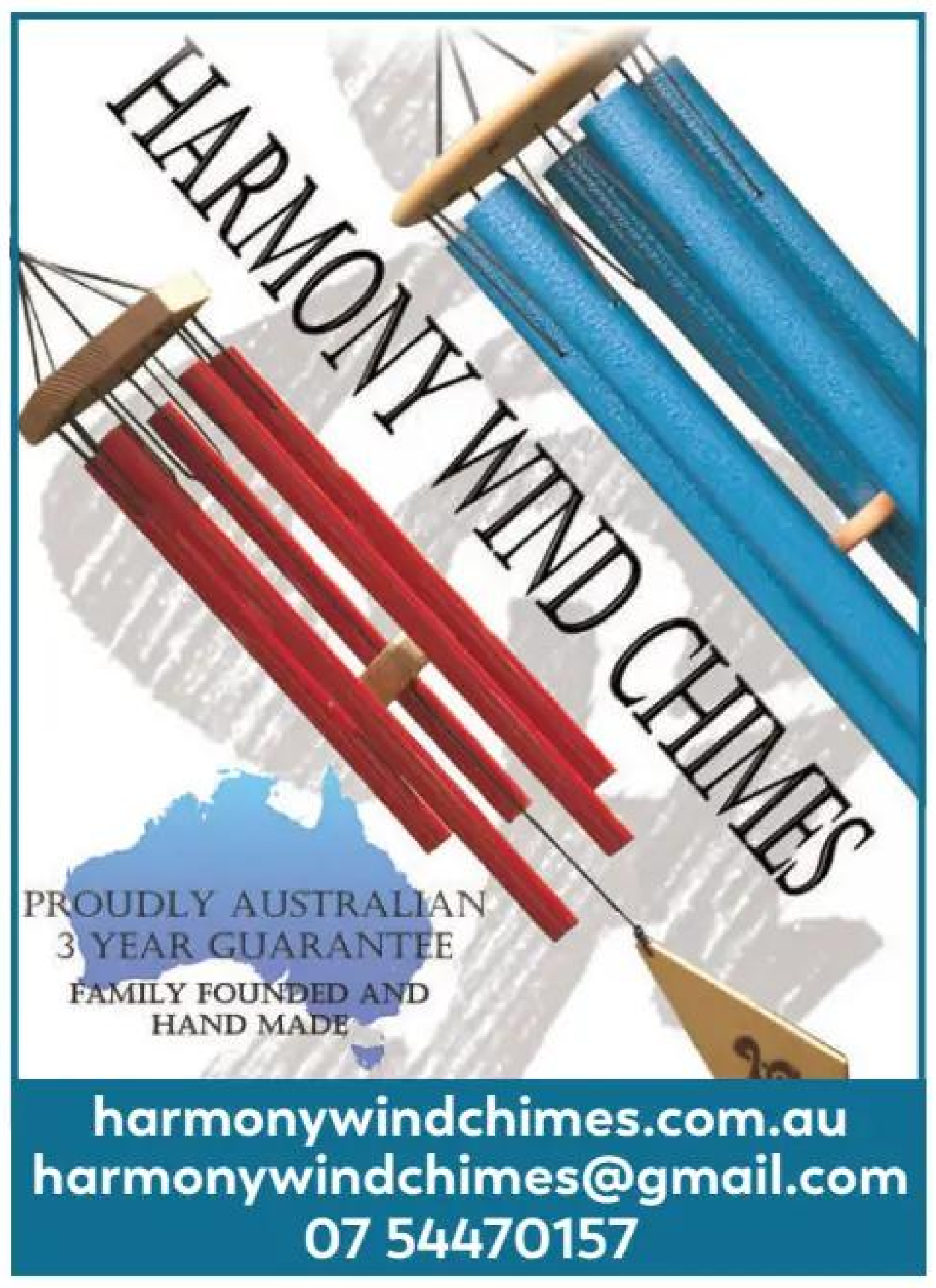

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